



# Impact Update

January 2024 - December 2024



2024 is the Arizona Food Bank Network's 40th Anniversary! This organization has grown a long way from its roots in citrus gleaning...now we have a fleet of trucks carting all sorts of donated produce across the nation, and a warehouse that fights hunger while helping the environment and upskilling hardworking individuals!

We couldn't continue this resilient impact without you - thank you for being part of this legacy.

APRIL BRADHAM AzFBN President & CEO



## FOOD BANKING

### AzFBN purchased a warehouse!

AzFBN went "from lease to loan" at 13 Calle Cristina in Rio Rico, Arizona in the summer of 2024. This milestone was only possible because of the partnership of Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Arizona Community Foundation, and a generous private donor. With the support of the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, vital improvements were swiftly made to increase accessibility and efficiency.

Thanks to Feeding America, a hydraulic tip truck and "de-watering" machines moved AzFBN closer to a goal of going **zero-produce-waste by 2030**. There is officially no dumpster used for produce waste at the warehouse; instead, about 20 local farmers utilize the produce waste for animal feed and/or compost. The AzFBN Produce Program is becoming a strong business solution for the produce industry in Arizona and Mexico, while feeding hundreds of thousands of Arizonans struggling with food insecurity.



**745,432** produce boxes built and distributed to food banks across Arizona and beyond through the AzFBN Produce Program



Overall, AzFBN facilitated the distribution of **40,772,032** pounds of food to **36** food banks through the Southwest Produce Co-Op, AzFBN Produce Program, and national Feeding America network



**134** growers and producers across Arizona supplied food banks with **\$4,294,000** worth of nutritious, local food through the AzFBN Friends of the Farm Program



Danielle provided nearly 10,000 lbs of produce in 2024 from her 5 acres!



"Many Voices, One Vision"  
Feeding America Award Winner 2024

**Our mission:** Develop solutions to end hunger through food banking, public policy, and innovation.

**Our vision:** A hunger free Arizona  
[azfoodbanks.org](http://azfoodbanks.org)



## ADVOCACY



February 2024 - AzFBN helped organize and host the **2024 Anti-Hunger Day at the State Capitol** in partnership with several organizations joining in this fight. Over 130 advocates, allies, and legislators came together to celebrate wins, establish priorities, and show what a force this community is at the Capitol's front door.



June 2024 - For the first time in our state's history, the Arizona Legislature included **school meals in the state budget** thanks to years of effort from our Advocacy Team and their partners. With \$3.8 million invested, eligible families with students at public and charter schools operating the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program didn't have to worry about the 70-cent copay for breakfast and lunch each day.

Access the  
2025  
Legislative  
Playbook



Summer 2024 - AzFBN advocated for Arizona to implement **SUN Bucks**, a new federal grocery-purchasing program for students in low-income households over the summer. In 2024, the program's first year, it reached more than 700,000 kids statewide. The robust SUN Bucks program will resume in 2025.



## INNOVATION

In 2024, AzFBN supported 112 schools with **child nutrition programming**, including (but not limited to) providing ongoing support for a unique improvement, building connections between schools and community partners, assisting with grant applications, and everything in between (like the food truck pictured above in Globe, AZ). Additionally, AzFBN's outreach helped expand summer meal opportunities for kids in rural communities - nearly three times as many grab-and-go meals were served in 2024 compared to 2023!

AzFBN's pilot of the **AzFBN No Limits Job Training Program** was wildly successful with a 94% graduation rate - which would've been 100% if one participant hadn't found a new position before even graduating! With OSHA certification, this individual earned a wage increase of 65%. Fifteen graduates, all members of our AzFBN Produce Program team, earned forklift certifications, dual language communication skills, basic computer skills, and so much more. The second cohort is graduating in spring 2025. Congrats, graduates!



Learn more about  
Mercedes' story on  
the AzFBN blog



AzFBN embarked on a mission to assess **food insecurity in the LGBTQ+ community** in 2024. Nationwide data recorded the issue, but there was no state specific data to look to. After gathering 631 survey responses, partnering with 28 local organizations to build a committee, and conducting 5 focus groups, AzFBN plans to publish findings in the summer of 2025 to create actionable solutions with the community.