



**St. Mary's  
Food Bank**  
ALLIANCE

2831 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue • Phoenix, AZ 85009 • (602) 352-3640 • Fax (602) 352-3659  
[www.FirstFoodBank.org](http://www.FirstFoodBank.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Jerry Brown (602) 343-3160  
Cell: (602) 684-0939  
[jjbrown@FirstFoodBank.org](mailto:jjbrown@FirstFoodBank.org)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ATS ELECTRIC HELPS ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK 'SEE THE LIGHT' AND FEED THE HUNGRY

*Company brightens Food Bank's main Phoenix warehouse by securing cash donations, providing labor to "generate" huge annual energy savings*

**Phoenix, AZ** – St. Mary's Food Bank's 120,000 square foot main warehouse is now twice as bright and twice as energy-efficient after a generous donation of time and technology from Phoenix-based ATS Electric Inc.

Working off-hours to not interrupt the normal operations of the ultra-busy warehouse, ATS replaced 123 fixtures – each of them requiring 451 watts of power – with new fixtures requiring just 215 watts each. ATS secured cash donations from Ahern Rentals and Rexel Electric Supply in addition to its own which, when combined with a \$14,000 rebate from Arizona Public Service, completely covered the cost of installation.

Moving forward, St. Mary's will see an estimated savings of more than \$10,800 annually in power usage – a decrease of more than 50 percent over 2008. The savings will be used to provide enough food for more than 75,000 meals to the hungry across Arizona.

"The warehouse is twice as bright as it was before, and we're going to use less than half as much electricity as the old system," said Ron Watt, general manager of St. Mary's main warehouse. "We're very appreciative of what the people at ATS have done for us."

The technology is more than seven years old, but ATS President Rob Sutton said other companies have been hesitant to embrace not only the monthly energy savings but the rebates offered by power companies to help defray or, in some cases, wipe out the installation costs of the upgrades.

To help encourage other companies to follow the lead, ATS Electric will donate 10 percent of the profits from lighting retrofits for the rest of 2009 to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

"It's amazing the rebates that are out there that people don't take advantage of," Sutton said. "There are also great federal tax credits and reductions that, in addition to the rebates, can combine to cover 100 percent of the installation costs in the first year."

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**ABOUT ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE:** St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the world's first food bank, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that alleviates hunger by efficiently gathering and distributing food to 534 agencies at 750 locations that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. In fiscal year 2008-09, the Food Bank distributed more than 67 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for more than 300,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 370,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: [www.FirstFoodBank.org](http://www.FirstFoodBank.org), Phone: 602-352-3640.