



St. Mary's
Food Bank®

Horn of Plenty

MISSION

To alleviate hunger through the gathering and distribution of food while encouraging self-sufficiency, collaboration, advocacy, and education.

October 2020



Paula's Story

Giving back to those who helped her through tough times.

Life has not been easy for Paula, a 55-year-old resident of Phoenix. Luckily, St. Mary's Food Bank has been able to provide stability in more ways than one. Her first experience with St. Mary's came 30 years ago. With two young children to feed and bills to pay, the assistance provided helped her make ends meet. With tears in her eyes she recalled the "protein being a lifesaver."

The next interaction with the Food Bank came at a time when she least expected. A marriage of 20 years came to an end and led to poor choices. While incarcerated, Paula began working as part of the Department of Corrections cleaning team at St. Mary's. Learning from mistakes and feeling hopeful, her work here at the food bank helped her to feel human again. Giving back was an inspiration during tough times.

Recently Paula has been unable to find work, but that has not discouraged her to continue to better herself and push forward. Between online college classes and taking care of her family, she finds time to return to volunteer at St. Mary's and maintain a spirit of positivity. Trips to build Emergency Food Boxes, as well as monetary donations, are a bright light for her.

"St. Mary's has been an integral part of my life at various stages throughout the past 35 years. I feel blessed to have the privilege of giving back to St. Mary's now in hopes that others in our community may be as blessed as I have been by this wonderful organization."

Finding Hope

Linda has a story that we often hear at St. Mary's Food Bank. After working hard all her life, she and her husband are now retired. They live on Social Security, but when the bills increase and money does not always cover the necessities that this elderly couple needs, they choose to sweat through hot days instead of risking higher utility bills in the summer. They take only the most necessary medicines because co-pays are a burden on their tight, limited income. Every month Linda tries to stretch food as far as possible, including regular visits to St. Mary's.

"This place is definitely a life-saver and gives us hope," Linda said. "My husband and I would not be able to eat every day without this food from St. Mary's. God is going to bless those that donate and help people that are struggling to survive."



Dear Friends,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect everyday life in so many different ways, it has forced our dedicated staff and volunteers at St. Mary's Food Bank to respond in a way it has never before in 53 years.

Since COVID-19 began back in March, St. Mary's had distributed nearly 70 million pounds of food to thousands of hungry neighbors in need. We accomplished these record numbers by utilizing every possible tool at our disposal.

You name it. We tried it!

St. Mary's hosted more than 70 no-contact drive-through mobile pantries each month, with dozens of cars waiting in line each day. Each household received food boxes that included meat, dairy, and fresh produce to sustain their family.

During our most recent distribution on the heavily impacted Navajo Nation, more than 1,200 households were served during a mass distribution. A line of cars stretched for miles to receive food boxes within four hours. During this no-contact distribution, many of these clients expressed gratitude for all the items, especially the chicken, eggs, milk, and water.

We could not have done it without our incredible employees, our selfless volunteers, the much needed and appreciated assistance of the Arizona National Guard, and YOU, our donors! Whenever St. Mary's asks Arizona to open their hearts to those we serve, you meet that need with an enthusiasm and generosity that warms our hearts as it fills countless empty plates.

At one of our partner agency sites, a normal day of 600 families instantly increased to 1,500 families in just one day! With the state reopening and people returning to work, the number of clients has become more manageable. Still higher, but less frantic.

Throughout these months, three out of every four families we have helped were receiving emergency food boxes for the very first time. Some of those individuals were donors to St. Mary's Food Bank a few months before the pandemic hit.

Thank you for your support to St. Mary's as we continue to meet the challenges of feeding our hungry families, children, and seniors.



Year in Review

FACT SHEET

DISTRIBUTION

106,917,246 POUNDS OVERALL

37,755,456 POUNDS OF PRODUCE

12,000+ HOLIDAY TURKEYS



816 AGENCY PARTNERS

managing 1,113 food distribution programs



MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

156 MOBILE PANTRY SITES
DISTRIBUTED
9,710,308 POUNDS



CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS



▶ **1,297,720**
Kids Cafe after-school
and summer meals served

▶ **281**
Kids Cafe after-school
and summer meals sites

▶ **167,723**
Family weekend backpacks
of food served to kids



Partnered with 28 growers in Arizona and 53 produce houses/distributors.

FOOD RESOURCING

TOP 10 RETAIL RESCUE PARTNERS

1. Walmart/Sam's Club	8,545,485
2. Fry's/Kroger	4,360,773
3. Sprouts	2,742,615
4. Safeway	2,225,598
5. Amazon	2,028,189
6. Costco	1,469,951
7. Target	1,414,698
8. Basha's	916,599
9. Trader Joe's	893,103
10. WinCo	561,163

FOOD DRIVES

862
food drives
collected

2,792,558
pounds



VOLUNTEERS



176,550
VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED
69,653 VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

73 Community
Kitchen
graduates





Your Holiday Giving to St. Mary's Food Bank is a Gift to You

As a resident of Arizona, you can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for your donation to St. Mary's Food Bank – up to \$400 individually or \$800 if you file jointly. So, please give generously for the sake of our hungry neighbors.

Receive a Dollar-for-Dollar Tax Credit through your ARIZONA TAX RETURN

Receive up to:

\$800
Couples
(filing jointly)

OR

\$400
Individuals

Consult a qualified tax professional for advice or to learn more. St. Mary's Qualifying Charitable Organization code is 20208.

2020 Holiday Greeting Card Program

Send holiday cheer with tribute cards from the food bank.

\$10 per card (tax deductible)

Inside sentiment: In the spirit of the season, a gift to help feed the hungry was made in your honor to St. Mary's Food Bank.

We will send you blank cards to send to your loved ones.



Call 602-343-3177 or go to [FirstFoodBank.org/GreetingCards](https://www.FirstFoodBank.org/GreetingCards) to order online
Email: greetingcards@firstfoodbank.org for more details

St. Mary's Driver of the Year

One of the most important positions at St. Mary's Food Bank are the truck drivers. A team of more than 40 drivers drove a collective 1.3 million miles last year. Some drivers stay in town, picking up food from 10 – 13 different grocery stores and food drive locations each day. Other drivers are delivering food in semi-trucks, making several stops a day and traveling as far as the four corners area. St. Mary's drivers are among the best ambassadors of the food bank, as they have interactions with donors and clients on a daily basis.



Each year, during "Driver Appreciation Week", the food bank selects a "Driver of the Year" based on KPIs (key performance indicators), as well as recommendations from the supervisors.

Tpring Bailey, St. Mary's Food Bank's only female driver, won this prestigious award this year.

Tpring has been with the food bank for eight years. She is always smiling and brightening the spirits of everyone she meets. "I just enjoy helping people," she said. "Driving through Arizona all day, you see so much and so many people in need. It feels good to know that I am making a difference in our community."

"No matter what kind of day she is having, Tpring is always in a great mood with an infectious laugh. It is a regular comment in emails from our agencies. In addition to having no accidents, service violations and excellent customer service, she also hasn't called out sick for two years," said Roman Arriola, Director of Operations.

Tpring recalls visiting food banks when she was a little girl. "My mom had to stand in line for food. I remember helping her carry the food home," she said.

"I am excited to go home and show my kids. This is what hard work gets you," she said, holding up her plaque.

Stay connected to the work you support, visit [StMarysFoodBank.org](https://www.StMarysFoodBank.org)



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St. Mary's Food Bank
2831 N. 31st Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85009
602-242-FOOD (3663)



Donations to St. Mary's Food Bank are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law and may qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. QCO code: 20208