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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE RECEIVES NEARLY \$2 MILLION IN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES FROM ARIZONA CORPORATIONS

*Funds to support increased food distribution to community; expansion of  
after-school feeding programs and Community Kitchen training facility*

**Phoenix, Ariz.** - Arizona corporations, led by the Apollo Group, have pledged nearly \$2 million to the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance Capital Campaign, which was announced last spring.

The Apollo Group has pledged a \$1 million challenge grant toward the Food Bank's \$10 million goal, encouraging other corporations to give to the campaign that includes capital improvements to allow the distribution of more food into the community, dramatic expansion of an after-school feeding program and a culinary training course focused on life skills. More than \$8.7 million has been pledged in total to the campaign.

The campaign, titled *Ending Hunger, Changing Lives*, is also being supported by The Gila River Indian Community with a \$300,000 pledge; Salt River Project, Wells Fargo Bank, Albertson's, US Airways Community Foundation and Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation have all pledged \$100,000 each to the campaign; Blue Cross Blue Shield has made a \$75,000 pledge; M & I Bank has made a \$50,000 pledge; DBG-Benefit

Solutions has made a \$25,000 pledge and both Hensley Companies and Arizona Public Service have each pledged \$10,000.

Food Bank President and CEO Terry Shannon said the commitments from the state's leading corporations shows broad-based support for the future goals of St. Mary's Food Bank. "As we look to the future, the need to take a proactive stance against growing poverty and hunger across Arizona is imperative," Shannon said. "This is wonderful, because there is no better time for us than right now to raise our voices and gain the community's support for those who can't do it for themselves."

The St. Mary's Food Bank capital campaign effort is being led by co-chairs Kevin and Sydney Knight of Knight Transportation; David Rousseau of Salt River Project; Alicia Harrison of Wells Fargo; Dale Rich of Albertson's; Randi Freeman; Nancy Stone of ILX Resorts; Barry McBride of Sun Cornerstone Group and immediate-past chairman of the Food Bank board; and Ayla Dickey of the University of Phoenix.

Funds raised from the capital campaign will focus equally on three main areas: expanding the production capacity of the organization's Kids Cafe® program to allow more children to be fed after school; streamlining the way Food Bank partner agencies select and pick up food at St. Mary's warehouses in order to accommodate more agencies; and relocating the kitchen and classroom space to increase student capacity of its Community Kitchen program.

More information about the *Ending Hunger, Changing Lives Capital Campaign* is available at [www.firstfoodbank.org](http://www.firstfoodbank.org).

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**ABOUT THE FOOD BANK:** 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 partner agencies at more than 700 locations that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is a member of Feeding America, the national network of food banks, and is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 67 million

pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 300,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 370,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: [www.FirstFoodBank.org](http://www.FirstFoodBank.org) Phone: 602-242-FOOD.