



## **St. Mary's Food Bank Feeds New Families Hit by Economic Crunch**

By Terry Shannon

I've been asked how things are going at our food bank – St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance – and I can tell you, the current economic trends dramatically affecting our community are having a serious impact on many food banks. This is a year unlike any other we have seen before.

We are being challenged in ways we could not have anticipated. Food is going out the door much faster than it is coming in. And the food is going to families that have never relied on charity before.

We've all seen the news; businesses are closing, banks are not lending, the price of food and gas have hit everyone's pocketbook - and I know - many of us are running our household budgets lean and mean.

As business after business closes, more and more of our neighbors are finding themselves out of work. Our neighbors are losing their jobs. Our neighbors are losing their homes. Many of our neighbors are losing hope.

We must work together – as a nation, as a state, as a community – to provide for our neighbors in need. This year is different. It's not just those who live in poverty we must help – it's not just children and the elderly – this year, it's our neighbor. We have to do this together. It is for the good of our neighborhoods and our communities.

I ask you to do one thing. Take a moment now to consider what our community would look like if St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance could not provide the food that hundreds of Arizona agencies rely on. Especially if the cities, churches and shelters we serve could not deliver meals for our hungry neighbors.

If our neighbors truly were out of hope.

We will do the best we can. We will do ALL we can – and we hope it will be enough. But we can't do it—without your help. Donate today at [www.firstfoodbank.org](http://www.firstfoodbank.org).

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