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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TAKE ACTION: IT'S HUNGER ACTION MONTH

*St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance Encourages Arizonans to  
Raise their Voices against Hunger*

Phoenix, AZ – Many of us think of hunger as a third-world issue and not as one that affects us here in America and Arizona. But more than 35 million Americans live in poverty, including more than 857,000 in Arizona.

“You’ll be hard pressed to find a community in the United States that is immune from hunger,” said Terry Shannon, President and CEO of St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance.

During the month of September, St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance is urging the community to take action during the inaugural nationwide HUNGER ACTION MONTH. “Our participation in Hunger Action Month, along with nearly 200 food banks across the nation, is a call to all Americans to get involved locally to bring an end to hunger in our communities,” continued Shannon.

Local events, volunteer opportunities, and fundraisers will raise support for the thousands of individuals living on the brink of hunger in Arizona. In doing so, the Food Bank joins the other food banks of the Feeding America network that are conducting similar events across the country.

Highlights of the Food Bank program includes:

- Weight Watchers Food Drive, August 31-October 25: Donate at a WW Center to and receive a coupon for an Applebee’s appetizer.
- Night at Chase Field, September 15: The Food Bank will be featured during the Diamondback game.

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- Rock and Box, September 30: Perfect for individuals and families, Rock & Box features 98.7 The Peak. Rock out to music while assembling food boxes for the Food Bank.

Hunger Action Month is organized on a national level by Feeding America and includes events across the country that directly benefit the network's hunger-relief efforts. From food drives to concerts, volunteer outings to advocacy work, there's something everyone can do in every state.

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For statistics on poverty and hunger, media inquiries, photos or interview requests, please contact Melody Hanna at (602) 343-3160, (602) 621-0526 or [mlhanna@firstfoodbank.org](mailto:mlhanna@firstfoodbank.org).

**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 700 sites 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. During Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the Food Bank distributed 43.4 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 167,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 327,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: [www.FirstFoodBank.org](http://www.FirstFoodBank.org), Phone: 602-352-3640.

**ABOUT FEEDING AMERICA (formerly America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank Network):** Feeding America is the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through its network of more than 200 member food banks, Feeding America annually provides assistance to more than 25 million people in need, including more than 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each year, Feeding America secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to support feeding programs at approximately 63,000 local charitable agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and Kids Cafes. To learn more, please visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).