



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

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE HIRES KARA J. RITTER AS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST *Ritter to Support PR, Community & Media Relations*

Phoenix, AZ –St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the world's first food bank, has recently hired Kara J. Ritter as communications specialist to bolster public, community and media relations. Ritter will head up Web site development, social media and internal and external communication efforts.

Ritter has held senior-level positions at various media companies during the last decade, launching publications to support business development products and revenue. She most recently ran her own freelance business specializing in public relations, marketing and media campaigns. She has overseen publications at newspaper, magazine and custom publishing companies reaching 54 million readers annually. She has also worked for national and local magazines, Web sites and at top newspaper companies, including Cox Newspapers and The Arizona Republic, as well at the largest custom publisher in the United States.

During her career, Ritter has gained more than 80 international, national, regional and local writing awards and has launched more than a dozen brands in the last twelve years. She has also been a guest lecturer for The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Ritter can be reached at (602)343-3160 or kjritter@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 675 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 2006-2007, the Food Bank distributed 51.5 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 200,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 230,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: www.FirstFoodBank.org, Phone: 602-242-FOOD.