



St. Mary's Food Bank
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE'S "SEND HUNGER PACKING" CAMPAIGN FEEDS 13 MILLION PEOPLE THIS SUMMER *\$1.6 Million Provided with Nearly 100,000 Volunteer Hours but Donations from Community Still Needed*

Phoenix, AZ –St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance is "Send Hunger Packing" with astounding community support, doubling efforts generated the year before. The campaign, which started May 15 and ended August 31 raised \$1,613,927, collected 481,381 pounds of food from 363 food drives and secured a total of 13 million pounds of food from the food industry.

"Contrary to popular belief, hunger doesn't take a vacation during the summer," says Terry Shannon, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's President and CEO. "In fact, there is an increased need for food during the summer because children are unable to receive food subsidies from school programs. This causes a burden on families in need."

Community partners such as Arizona Diamondbacks, Bashas', Fry's Food & Drug Stores, Gila River Casinos, SRP and US Airways promoted summer activities for the community to get involved. The result? Double amount of food donations in food drives over last summer, says Shannon. This successful community support help offset rising gas prices and increased food prices for thousands of working families in Arizona.

“What the community can do now is continue to help replenish the need by using our year-round drop off locations at any U-Haul and Goodwill,” Shannon says. “We are still in need of canned fruit and vegetables, as well as juice.”

The public can also make a monetary donation using St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance’s Web site at www.FirstFoodBank.org, or call at (602) 242-FOOD to ask about volunteer or food drive opportunities.

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To securely download digital hi-res photos, please visit:

<http://firstfoodbank.org/images/DiamondBack0908>

CAPTION: Arizona Diamondback President Derrick Hall receives a plaque from St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance President & CEO Terry Shannon to celebrate the Send Hunger Packing Campaign.

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: 602-352-3640.