

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

NORTHERN ARIZONA FOOD BANK

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

~ Our Mission~

To transport, store, and distribute food and commodities to thousands of Arizona's most impoverished families. Working in conjunction with existing social service agencies, churches, civic organizations and national hunger relief organizations, NAFB is determined to wipe out malnutrition and extinguish the flames of hunger in Northern Arizona.

BACKGROUND

The Northern Arizona Food Bank (NAFB) was founded in 1986 and is a division of Feed My People Children's Charities, Inc. We supply food and other basic life necessities to more than 180 partner agencies each year, and are able to deliver emergency aid when and where it is needed most.

2006 OVERVIEW

We are very proud of our achievements in 2006. Did you know that Northern Arizona Food Bank re-invests 98¢ of every \$1.00 directly back into services for our clients? And each dollar donated can provide up to 7 meals. I'd like to share some of our latest information with you.

- National and Regional Food Drive Collections and Distributions

NAFB accepts donations from many different food drives and sources, including the annual letter-carrier food drive each spring. A new record for that food drive was set in 2006, with 42,267 pounds of food collected on that one day. Our total distribution in 2006 was over 5.4 million pounds of food and material aid. This represents the equivalent of over 4 million meals.

- Wood For Winter Warmth

NAFB accepts donations of wood throughout the spring, summer and fall, and distributes that wood to families throughout each winter. Each client qualifies by household income, by disability or by being elderly. Our wood client list consisted of 168 families this past year. Since starting this program in 2001, NAFB has supplied over 829 cords of firewood to our targeted clientele, free of charge. Disadvantaged individuals and families should not have to choose between food, medicine, and heat. This program has become so popular in the winter months between October and March that we made Mondays "Wood Bank Day."

- Hunters For The Hungry

NAFB is a member of the national program called Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). Through this program we collect and distribute wild and domestic game that has been professionally processed. Since inception of this program, we have successfully donated over 27,000 pounds of nutritious red meat with our emergency food box program. This is the equivalent of more than 108,000 quarter-pound servings/meals.

- Milk for Kids and Seniors

NAFB has carried liquid, self-stable, USDA, low-fat milk in plain, chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry. All flavors are provided in an 8-ounce container with a straw, and two flavors are available in 32-ounce containers. Over 4 million 8-ounce servings have been distributed since May 2004.

- Emergency and Disaster Relief Provider

NAFB has responded to numerous requests for assistance. In 2005, these included hurricane relief for Katrina & Rita in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas; over 232,000 pounds of food & material aid provided.

- Water Barrels and Blankets continue to be distributed in times of emergency. Many of our partner agencies are located in undeveloped areas throughout Northern Arizona. When we experience too much rain, the dirt roads become impassable. The families we serve often do not have basic plumbing and other services. The need for containers to transport and store clean drinking water becomes a life-sustaining issue, as families and communities are often cut off for days or weeks
- Our volunteer base continues to be such an important component of our success. Since 1986, we have received on-going commitments from local church groups, college students, and corporate employees. Total volunteer hours for 2006 were 4,637.
- Community Advocacy has been our goal this past year. We made significant strides through awareness programs such as:
 - Supplying recipes for better use of produce through a Nutritional Education component.
 - Involvement of school, after-school, and day care programs to supply our milk products and other healthy snack choices through fruit and vegetable outreach.

A FEW STATISTICS

Facts from the US Census Bureau show the following startling statistics for 5 Northern Arizona Counties that we serve:

	<u>Apache</u>	<u>Coconino</u>	<u>Mohave</u>	<u>Navajo</u>	<u>Yavapai</u>
Number of children living below 100% Of the federal poverty guideline (2003) (10% of families reported that their children skipped meals because there was not enough food in the home)	8,884	7,551	10,631	10,338	7,613
Percentage of population living below 100% of the federal poverty guideline (2003)	27.6%	15.6%	14.8%	21.5%	12.0%
Percentage of population living below 185% of the federal poverty level (\$34,875 for a family of four considered to be the working poor)	62.0%	36.0%	35.0%	52.0%	31.0%

I am proud to be a part of the Northern Arizona Food Bank team of committed, caring volunteers and staff members. We look forward to the challenges ahead in 2007. Together we will continue to accomplish our mission of compassionate service to individuals and families that have fallen below the poverty levels.

Your assistance is invaluable to answer the continuation of services from the Northern Arizona Food Bank. There is a growing population of seniors, women, children, and families that have experienced a crisis in the remote rural communities we serve, as well as a growing number of friends and neighbors to us all who are experiencing a regular shortfall in a struggling economy. They are now classified by our Government as the working-poor, and the food-insecure.

Kerry Ketchum, Executive Director