

THE DISH

E-Newsletter from Sedona Community Food Bank

A Record-Breaking Year For SCFB: *With YOUR Support, We Did It!*

Nationwide in 2023, 7 in 10 lower & middle-income parents were struggling to afford food ahead of this past Thanksgiving, according to [recent polling](#) from ParentsTogether Action.

2023 also saw the end of the federal government's pandemic-era food assistance in March, so this is the first holiday season in years without additional help to families in need.

Sedona Community Food Bank's numbers have been reflecting the same sort of experience for local working families, serving over 200 families on some week's Wednesday distribution days, which is even higher than the worst month of 2020. Previously, April 2020's average of 187 weekly families in need was seen as a high-water number for SCFB, but 2023 has broken that record.

Sedona Community Food Bank has been rising to the challenge. Here are some of the amazing numbers that illustrate just how much SCFB achieved in 2023:

- Assisted 8379 households, or 12,369 people
- Distributed 257, 609 lbs of food
- Donated 33, 580 lbs of food to other area nonprofits
- Filled and delivered 244 boxes of food to homebound clients
- Provided 1950 weekend emergency food packs to children at West Sedona School
- Provided 17,625 snacks to children attending West Sedona school and Red Rock High School
- Our 61 volunteers have donated 8898 hours this year to make all this possible!

Many thanks to ALL our supporters for keeping our community strong and kind during these unprecedented times!





Coffee Pot Restaurant Raises \$4690 During Annual Pre- Thanksgiving Free Community Meal

Coffee Pot Restaurant Owner Emile Daher and Staff hosted their Annual Free

Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 22nd from 3:30-6:30 pm. With optional donations collected for Sedona Community Food Bank, they raised \$4690 in 3 hours! Daher said, "It's a joy to be able to host people in the restaurant and serve them. It's also fulfilling to be able to make that donation before the holidays to the food bank." The dinner typically attracts around 400 guests for the communal Thanksgiving meal, and was started back in 2008 during the recession. Daher told the Red Rock News that seeing the smiles on people's faces and feeling an air of gratitude is what Thanksgiving is all about. "Thanksgiving has been my favorite holiday for most of my life," he said. "I have great memories as a kid with my family with my mom doing the cooking, and it's a special holiday, and being able to share that with such a diverse group of people is amazing." Thank you, Coffee Pot Restaurant and Emile for being such wonderful long time community creators and supporters in Sedona. We appreciate you!



Adopt a Family Program Helps a Record 14 Families During Holiday Season

This year, with the help of Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village, Ray Harris and the Rotary of VOC, plus 3 anonymous donors, SCFB adopted 14 families for the annual Adopt-A-Family program. Each family created a wish list and the sponsoring individuals and businesses fulfilled their wishes! At Tlaquepaque, these wonderful businesses donated: *El Rincon, Environmental Realists, Feliz Navidad, Rowe Gallery, Vino Zona Sedona, Tlaquepaque Toy Town, Adorn Collectibles, Estebans,*

Bennali, Cream and Cake Couture, Tlaquepaque, Mountain Trails Gallery, Cocpah, and Azadi Fine Rugs. Adopt A Family changes lives: thank you ALL for your amazing generosity and kindness.



Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley Helps SCFB on Mitzvah Day

What is Mitzvah Day?

It's an annual community-based, interfaith, intergenerational day of service, **organized by the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley**, with participation by local churches and civic and philanthropic groups.

This year on October 29th, volunteers chose from 13 projects, and completed the end-of-year mailing for SCFB as one of those projects!

All we had to do was deliver them to the post office.

Thank you, Sedona!



L'Auberge de Sedona Donates 1109lbs of Food in December



Thank you to L'Auberge de Sedona for delivering an astounding 1109 lbs of food from their annual food drive last month! L'Auberge hosts a food drive for SCFB every December and we appreciate the tremendous support and boost to our shelves and cupboards that this food drive has brought us. Demand for SCFB's services surged this year, and we really benefited from all the wonderful food drives that our community has held for us.

Blackmarr's Furniture Hosts Annual Donate & Save Event

Katy and Erin at Blackmarr's Furniture extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible Sedona community! Your generous support during Blackmarr's annual Donate & Save event in November was phenomenal. With your food donations, Blackmarr's collected a total of 189lbs of food over the month, providing 246 meals to clients of Sedona Community Food Bank. Your kindness makes a meaningful difference – thank you all!



RunSedona Hosts SCFB Fundraiser



Many thanks to RunSedona for choosing Sedona Community Food Bank as their designated nonprofit cause! So far, the RunSedona team has raised more than \$1800 to date for Sedona Community Food Bank but they're not done yet! SCFB will be hosting a table at their Half Marathon event, which is not to be missed: You can show your support for RunSedona AND SCFB by joining their fundraising team, raising funds and awareness for SCFB in 2024 and beyond: <https://givebutter.com/c/SCFBCircleofHope/teams/run-sedona>

Why not come out for a run with us?! - both our board president and vice president will be running this year and we'd love you to join us!

Sign up for RunSedona's next half marathon event on February 3rd by visiting their website here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AZ/Sedona/SedonaMarathonEvents>



A Wonderful Surprise from the Burton Family Foundation and Arizona Community Foundation



On December 7, at the [Arizona Community Foundation of Sedona](#) Grants Awards event, ACF awarded the food bank \$5550 to support our

purchases of protein (meat, fish, poultry and the like). The Burton Family Foundation, who are an ACF supporting organization, thought so highly of our grant application that they matched ACF's award, and our food bank came away with \$11,100 for our protein purchases in the coming year! This makes

SUCH a crucial difference in the lives of our clients. We are deeply grateful.



Azadi Fine Rugs Hosts Annual Donation Pledge-per-Visitor Campaign for SCFB

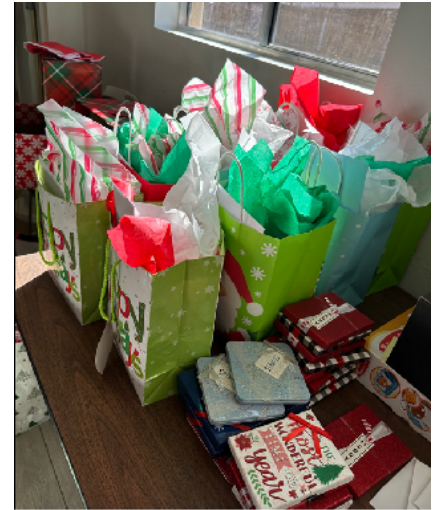
At the beginning of October, AZADI kicked off its annual "Living is Giving" campaign and committed to donating to those less fortunate during the holiday season. For each visitor and appointment made during the month, pledged a donation to the food bank. Azadi

supports us with this generous promotion every year and we couldn't be more grateful. This year, Azadi donated \$1300 to SCFB, which was used to provide \$50 grocery gift cards to 26 households. Thank you for your continued support, Azadi!

Did You Hear? **- SCFB Volunteers Distributed 50 Senior Gift Bags This Year!**



With help from volunteers from Words & Warmth, Sedona Community Food Bank and collected items for senior gift bags, and then wrapped and delivered the gifts to 50 homebound elders in our community.



For many of them, this gift was the only gift they received this holiday season.

Here are some photos of our volunteers having fun wrapping everything up.



We are so grateful for our volunteers!

They create and spread so much joy and kindness each and every year.



SAVCO Supports SCFB with Annual Donation and More

Many many thanks to SAVCO (Sedona Area Veteran & Community Outreach) for their generous donation to our food bank!

In addition to this wonderful financial donation, SAVCO is responsible for [Sedona Toys for Tots](#) and provides wonderful gifts

for so many of our clients' children! Check out their good work at <https://www.savco.org>

Red Rock High School Interact Club Donates 559 lbs of Food

Many thanks to the Interact Club and Heather Baskins Hermen, who hosted a food drive at Sedona Red Rock High School which brought in a whopping 559lbs of food!

What an amazing community of truly generous students, teachers, and families.

We can't thank you enough for all your help.

Cleaner Quicker Car Wash Donates Over 200lb of Food to SCFB



Thank you to our friends at [Cleaner Quicker Car Wash and](#)

[Detailing](#) who have been so very supportive throughout the years. Many thanks especially for the recent donation of 205 lbs of food!

Sedona Car Club Hosts Toy Drive for Food Bank Clients



For some local working families, the Holidays were nearly a bust until Sedona Car Club came to the rescue: imagine having a difficult year and life getting so crazy for your family that the signup details for Toys For Tots didn't get to you in time, nor did any of the signup details for the Adopt-A-Family program - and suddenly, December 25th loomed all-too-soon on the calendar, long after the mid-month paycheck was spent. This was reality for more than a dozen of our families this year. Just in time, Sedona Car Club hosted a toy drive, and families coming to distribution on the week before Christmas were treated to a shelf of toys that they got to select from for their little ones. Many thanks to Sedona Car Club for hosting this thoughtful toy drive!

Delta Dental of Arizona Awards SCFB New Community Grant



Many thanks to Delta Dental of Arizona for providing SCFB with a

\$5000 Community Grant, which will be used to provide apples and milk to students attending West Sedona School and Red Rock High School. Delta Dental have recently expanded their giving to include non-dental programs, specifically nutritional access programs such as food banks, after-school and weekend food programs for children, and senior delivery programs acknowledging the important link between nutrition and dental health.

Local Cabinet Maker Donates Cabinets, Shelves & Doors to Our New Building

A Huge thanks to the wonderful folks at [The Wood Joint](http://TheWoodJoint.com)



here in Sedona for their extremely generous in-kind donation! They built and installed cabinets, shelves and doors (for existing shelves missing doors) so that our non-perishable food storage space looks great and keeps everything safely stored!

As we often say, we couldn't do what we do without the support of our incredible community.

<https://woodjointaz.com>



Many Thanks to Our Generous Supporters!

*Thank you to all our supporters!
We appreciate you and all that you do for our community!*

Arizona Community Foundation of Sedona
Aletheia Church
Aspey Watkins Diesel PLLC - AWD Law
Azadi Fine Rugs
Basha's
Blackmarr's Furniture
Big O Tires
Burton Family Foundation
Christ Lutheran Church - Sedona
Church of the Red Rocks
City of Sedona
Clark's Market
Cleaner Quicker Car Wash & Detailing
Coffee Pot Restaurant & Gift Shop
Delta Dental of Arizona
Diva Hillside
Eyeworks Sedona
Gerardo's Italian Restaurant
Healthy World Sedona
Jewish Community of Sedona & the Verde Valley
Kiwanis Bell Rock Chapter
L'Auberge de Sedona
Mooney's Irish Bar
MyAZValues
Natural Grocers
Neighborhood Food Project Green Bag Collection
Northern Arizona Healthcare
Oak Creek Espresso
OneAZ Community Foundation
Plant2Platter
Rotary Club of Sedona Village

RunSedona / Blue Wolf Productions
Safeway / Nourishing Neighbors
Sedona Area Veteran & Community Outreach
Sedona Brewing Company
Sedona Car Club
Sedona Chamber of Commerce
Sedona International Film Festival
SedonaKind
Sedona Motors
Sedona Recycles
Sedona Red Rock High School
Sedona Toys for Tots
Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Sedona United Methodist Church
Sedona Wish List
St Andrew's Episcopal Church
St John Vianney Catholic Church
St Luke's Anglican Church
Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
Starbucks
The Humane Society of Sedona
The Sedona Women
The Wood Joint Cabinet Manufacturer
Tlaquepaque
Unify Sedona - A Rainbow Alliance
Verde Valley Caregivers' Coalition
Whole Foods Market
Wildflower Bakery & Cafe
Wyndham Resort

[Donate Here](#)

Our Board Members

Sedona Community Food Bank's board is a working board - we couldn't accomplish everything we do without the amazing contributions & dedication of this fantastic team.

Jane Tusso - President

Patsy Brunner - Vice President

Felicia Blasdel - Treasurer

Robin Czachor - Secretary

Mike Cook

Carol Kurimsky

Rick Ferreira

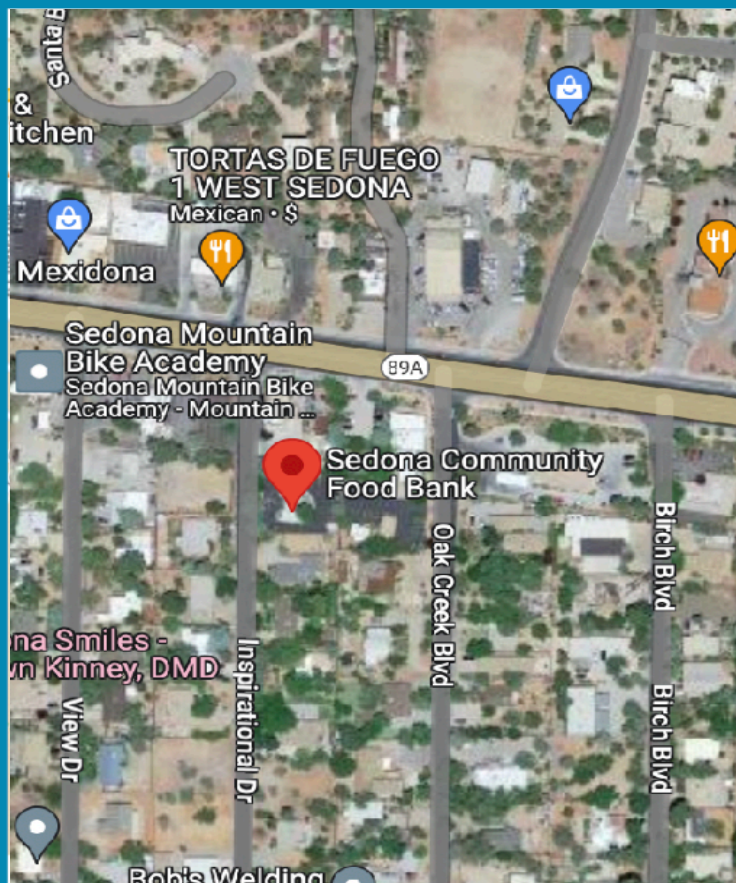
Cathleen Healy-Baiza - Executive Director



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SEDONAFOOD
to **53-555**

[**Donate Here**](#)

*“Help us Trade
Hunger for
Hope!”*



Get in touch with us!

The Sedona Community Food Bank is located at
**30, Inspirational Dr
Sedona, AZ 86336**

Cathleen Healy Baiza, Executive Director -

SedonaFoodBank@gmail.com

- Laura Brown, Community Development Manager, -

FoodBankDevelopment@gmail.com

SedonaFoodBank.org

928 204 2808