



Special Delivery

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLIENTS OF MOBILE MEALS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Cooking Up Shared Solutions

Mobile Meals and Community Food Bank Work Together to Strengthen Community Nutrition

Rising needs call for smart solutions. That's why **Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona (Mobile Meals)** is launching a shared kitchen management partnership with **Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB)**—an innovative collaboration to boost efficiency while strengthening the region's nutritional safety net.

"We're blending expertise to better nourish those in the community who are unable to cook for themselves," says L'Don Sawyer, Mobile Meals CEO. "This partnership aims to show how nonprofits can rethink traditional models to more effectively meet critical needs in Southern Arizona."



At the center of the model is **shared culinary leadership**. Chef Kyle Okurily (*photo, below, right*), CFB's Kitchen Supervisor for six years, will now serve as Kitchen Supervisor for Mobile Meals and CFB, overseeing menu planning and kitchen staff at each site. The approach will help ensure consistent quality, efficiency and expertise across both kitchens.

"My focus is on nutrition, value and exceptional taste," says Kyle, a Culinary Institute of America graduate who brings experience from cooking in Tucson as well as working seasonally in other states. "We're committed to using the best local, fresh ingredients for meals that are nourishing, delicious and thoughtfully prepared."

Strengthening Service Through Collaboration

Supporting the transition is Associate Director of CFB's Caridad Community Kitchen Todd Eanes, who will help coordinate operations across both facilities. The model reflects a growing national trend of nonprofits sharing staff and infrastructure to expand expertise and mission impact. It also allows Mobile Meals' current Kitchen Manager Tim Piper to fully transition to his international catering consultancy.

"By combining our knowledge and resources, we're taking a practical step toward a stronger, reliable system for Southern Arizona," adds Mobile Meals CEO L'Don. "We're excited to evaluate how this partnership can benefit the community and our clients in the months ahead."



Stay tuned for updates on this innovative program.

March 2026

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Upcoming Holiday

No Meal Delivery:
Memorial Day, May 25

A Friday Morning Commitment to Community



It's Friday morning at Mobile Meals' 6th Avenue Depot, and volunteer **Gloria Paul** (*photo, left*) is already working carefully to check meal containers and prepare them for drivers about to head out on their delivery routes. It's a familiar routine, and one she approaches with quiet focus and deep purpose.

A Mobile Meals volunteer for more than a year, Gloria is no stranger to supporting older adults in need of good nutrition and friendly visits. In her hometown of Amarillo, Texas, Gloria volunteered with the nonprofit Meals on Wheels for more than 30 years. When asked why she still gives her time so generously, Gloria doesn't hesitate. "Community is what matters," she says simply. "And we need to do what we can to protect and improve our communities for the good of all."

In Texas, Gloria spent most of her professional life building a career in office management before relocating to Tucson in 2020. Her background includes work in production planning and troubleshooting, skills that translate seamlessly to her current volunteer role in Mobile Meals delivery distribution. **At Mobile Meals, Gloria plays a key part in quality control, ensuring that meals are organized and ready for drivers setting out on their delivery routes.** "It's my job to check that the right meals are in the right containers," she explains. "That support helps our drivers, and there's real satisfaction in knowing I'm directly impacting our clients' experience."

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona (MMSA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit delivering nutrition for more than 50 years.

Our Mission:
Delivering nutritious meals to people in Southern Arizona through a network of caring individuals.

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Gloria and her husband Rickey are avid, veteran R'V'ers – and their travels often led them to Tucson, where they fell in love with the city and its surrounding desert. "Tucson has so many wonderful features, from its culture and nature to its restaurants and museums, and it keeps its small town feel in spite of all it offers," says Gloria. "So when we decided to set our roots here, I looked for an organization which had a mission I could deeply believe in. I saw the role Mobile Meals plays in our community and I decided to volunteer."

Gloria's belief in Mobile Meals extends beyond volunteering; she is also a dedicated donor, supporting the program financially because she understands the importance of stewardship and sustainability. "Volunteering shows me how important Mobile Meals is to our community, and donating is another way I can help sustain that mission. It feels good to know I'm supporting something that truly makes a difference," she says. "And it keeps me connected to the community I love!" Each week, Gloria's commitment continues to grow, reinforcing her belief in the value of giving back. "It's definitely the way I'm pursuing my definition of retirement," she says with a smile.

Volunteers like Gloria—who share their invaluable experience and their stewardship—are truly the backbone of Mobile Meals, says L'Don Sawyer, CEO of Mobile Meals. "Our volunteers make a tangible difference here in Tucson and Green Valley, and each volunteer's input adds a fresh perspective that helps our initiatives grow."

If you know someone who wants to join a dedicated volunteer team, have them contact Tara McCarthy, Tara@mobilemealssoaz.org.

Simplify Your Meal Planning

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