Volunteer Voices

Thank you for all that you do!

Contents

- Letter from the Director
- The Drive: Partnership for the Vulnerable
- You've Got Questions
- What's the Plan?
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Volunteers' Monthly Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Holidays

No Meal Deliveries*

- Thanksgiving, November 26 & 27
- Veteran's Day, November 11
- Christmas, December 25
- New Year's Day, January 1

**Preliminary: watch for updates*

Letter from the Director

Thursday, October 1, was the big day! Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona (MMSA) and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB) officially joined forces to serve older adults in our community. Thank you for your incredible dedication over the years and for your ongoing support during this merger. I have had the chance to meet a few of you, and I genuinely appreciate the warm welcome. As the Director of Philanthropy for the Community Food Bank, my role focuses on stewarding relationships and engaging individuals to increase support for over 200,000 neighbors in our region. I oversee three teams: Volunteer Services, Community Engagement, and Donor Services. For over 20 years, I have worked in fundraising and partnered with volunteers in a variety of roles. I believe that volunteers are the greatest champions for any non-profit. They are the heart of the mission, and by ensuring that their perspectives are incorporated, we do our best work.



Amy Reichgott, CFRE, ***Director of Philanthropy, Community Food Bank***

The Volunteer Services team at CFB consists of one manager and two coordinators. We are excited to bring Tara McCarthy onto that team in the new role of Volunteer Manager for the Mobile Meals program, in which she will continue to be the "go-to" for Mobile Meals volunteers.

During a ride-along in September, I had the opportunity to learn more about the delivery process and see firsthand the incredible care provided to our senior neighbors. It is an inspiration to see how Mobile Meals volunteers give nourishment and comfort to each person you serve. I hope to meet as many of you as possible over the next few months and look forward to working together as we continue to provide meals with dignity, compassion and human connection.

With gratitude,

Amy Reichgott, CFRE, Director of Philanthropy, CFB

Published by and for MMSA Volunteers. Contact the editor, Tyna (tynacaz@gmail.com), with questions & suggestions.

Nourishing Tucson & Southern Arizona

The Drive

Mission and Origins of MMSA

Program these Numbers into Your Phone:



When you run into questions

General Operations
Blanca Payne
(520)620-9133

Client Concerns
Krystal Johnson
(520)-622-1600

Volunteer Schedules, Policies and Documentation

Tara McCarthy
(520)622-1600

Or via volunteer hotline
(520)222-9878

Kitchen Scheduling:
Annette Pena (please text):
(520)336-4245

Everything Else:
MMSA Main #: (520)622-1600

**Office Hours are 8am-4pm*

Mobile Meals and the Food Bank

Evolving to Better Serve Our Community

Mobile Meals is a shining example of the community stepping-up to fill a need. When government funding for special diet meals for the homebound was discontinued in 1970, Tucson's medical community, concerned about their vulnerable patients, responded through its affiliated Pima County Medical Society Alliance (PCMSA). That response was to create Mobile Meals of Tucson, at that time serving to 42 clients. The evolved and expanded Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona (MMSA) has been serving a much larger community. In 2025, MMSA provided 90,000 meals to 796 clients thanks to its 200 volunteers who logged almost 11,000 hours in deliveries alone (you'll find volunteers in the office and the kitchen as well). Until 2023, special diet and basic healthy meals were sourced from local hospitals; now, those meals are planned and prepared in MMSA's own kitchen. PCMSA has continued to hold Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona close to its heart, and continues to be among its most dedicated and loyal donors.

October marks the beginning of a new stage of that evolution: the merger of Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. This merger helps both organizations gain efficiencies: working hard is laudable; working together to work smarter helps achieve more of those efficiencies. Our community—the health of our community—benefits hugely from both the Community Food Bank and Mobile Meals individually, and this merger expands that reach and expertise. It may even expand the community that we help over time…what could be better? Community is what prompted the founding of both Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, and their missions coordinate as nicely as their operations do.

You've Got Questions….

Q: What is the leadership structure of MMSA now that the CFB/MMSA merger is complete?

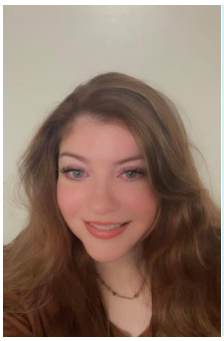
A: Mobile Meals is now under the leadership of Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of the Community Food Bank. From a volunteer perspective, the structure will look the same as it has been. Volunteers continue to be supported by Tara McCarthy, now Volunteer Manager, who is supervised by Amy Reichgott, CFRE, Director of Philanthropy. L'Don Sawyer will continue in a consulting role to help ensure a smooth transition. All current Mobile Meals staff have accepted positions with CFB.

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In Touch

Keeping in Touch with Staff and Fellow Volunteers

Volunteers' Monthly Meeting



Volunteer Manager, Mobile Meals Program ***Tara McCarthy***

Your opportunity to hear updates on what's new, get questions answered, and share thoughts and tips with other volunteers.

Join via Zoom
on the last Friday of each month at 2:00 MST using the link below:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87876027466?pwd=udUBCyWW6XUS6OqXgNotAHF2Ol6u5u.1

MMSA Staff Contact: 520-622-1600

Blanca Payne, Operations Director
director@mobilemealssoaz.org

Tara McCarthy, Volunteer Manager
tara@mobilemealssoaz.org

Stella Montante, Assistant (pt):
admin@mobilemealssoaz.org

After-hours Volunteer cell: 520-222-9878

How Will this Transition Progress?

The Community Food Bank and Mobile Meals worked to create a transition plan for the first 90 days of our work together. Our overarching goals for the plan center on learning from each other and leveraging the best of both organizations in our new one.

Days 1 – 30: Protect and Listen
The first 30 days focus on team-building. The priority is keeping services running without interruption while employees and volunteers from both organizations learn from each other.

Days 31 – 60: Learn & Connect
After we learn how the full programs work together, we can "dream" and gather ideas for improvement. By taking the time to look at all the processes at work, we can gain an understanding of what should be preserved, what we can share, and how CFB can add support toward improvements in both organizations as we move forward and decide on next steps.

Days 61 – 90: Strengthen Together

Based on what we learn together, we will begin organizing and identifying thoughtful improvements. Before any significant change moves forward, we will be clear about the problem or need we are addressing, who will be affected, how it may affect clients, volunteers and employees, as well as how we will communicate about and support the change.

Learn more about our new partner, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona at communityfoodbank.org.

Send your questions to Tyna at tynacaz@gmail.com if you'd like to see them answered in Volunteer Voices.

What Volunteer Opportunities are Available?

See the up-to-date list of volunteer needs at
https://mobilemealssoaz.org/volunteer-mobile-meals