

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION:

To build community support for meeting the needs of the hungry through education and resource development;
To increase the production and distribution of locally grown food;
And to be a voice for the hungry.

Annual Address from Harvey Grady - Board Chair



The board and staff of Yavapai Food Council want to **thank you** for working with us in achieving our mission. This annual report outlines our combined impact.

Even with that achievement, hunger continues to *increase* in our nation, our state, and our rural counties. We've learned that a weak economy produces hunger and poverty, and that focused community effort is required to increase the number of jobs and upgrade low wages to sustainable levels so that individuals and families with children can afford healthy food. **One-third** of the persons in food bank lines have jobs but don't make enough money to keep food on the table. The Census reports that **39% of Arizona families** are sliding into poverty because their income has declined due to job loss, reduced work hours, and low wages.

Almost half of our middle class experiences financial insecurity. A 2014 report by the Corporation for Enterprise Development states that **46% of Arizona households** are in a "persistent state of financial insecurity" as a result of the 2008-09 recession.

Arizona now has the **fifth highest** poverty rate in the nation, with 19% of its residents living below the poverty line. Most residents lack savings to cover basic expenses if hit by a financial emergency, such as a health expense or a car problem. And if they fall into poverty, many "safety net" programs have been reduced or cut by government, so they might not receive the temporary help they need to climb out of poverty and hunger.

In the face of a slow economic recovery, the Yavapai Food Council has worked collaboratively to mobilize community resources for hunger-relief. Due to our successes, the Food Council has been requested to expand its services throughout Yavapai County. With expansion of our service area, we need more charitable donations by individuals, faith organizations and businesses to sustain our expanded service base.

As you note the accomplishments in this report, please see the value of *collaboration* in effective use of resources. We need more volunteer food donors, neighborhood coordinators, local businesses and farmers to work with us in reversing the tide of hunger.

We welcome your volunteer and financial assistance in 2014.

- Harvey Grady

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Child Nutrition Initiative Providing healthy food to the 1 in 3 children who are food insecure in Yavapai County. Research estimates 15,000 food-insecure children reside in Yavapai County.

Daily Diner Meals Program

This new program provides food to hungry children in child care centers, rural schools, charter schools and organized summer programs that lack federal meals. **Cornucopia**



Community Advocates Child Meal Gap Survey identified 36 child care centers, 29 charter schools, 10 rural schools, 11 district schools in Yavapai County that do not provide meals for students during the school year and 28 charter schools that do not provide summer meals.

In 2013, YFC conducted a *Meal Site Readiness Survey* of child care centers, rural schools and charter schools that do not offer meals.

The goal of this survey was to identify the best prospects for YFC

assistance. According to the survey results, the top reasons sites do not provide meals is the lack of administrative resources required to apply, train staff and maintain the regular oversight required by the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and they have no access to certified kitchens to prepare meals according to health regulations.

With the Daily Diner Meal Program, local foodservice providers prepare nutritious meals that are picked up and delivered to meal sites by community volunteers. YFC helps schools and child care centers with administrative and management challenges by supporting the application process, foodservice selection and agreements, and meal service oversight until the program runs smoothly and is sustainable.

YFC will launch a pilot of the National School Lunch Program at Desert Star Charter School (Cornville, AZ) in the Spring of 2014 with the potential of providing over 150 meals daily in partnership with AZ Department of Education and USDA. During the 2014-15 school year, this project is estimated to provide over 20,000 meals to low-income students.

Weekend Backpacks for Kids

YFC collaborates with Emergency Food Providers (EFPs), community organizations and school administration to provide healthy weekend food for 5 meals and 3 snacks to students who qualify for free/reduced cost meals at school. Studies show that hungry students who are provided nutritious weekend meals are more prepared to learn and interact with peers when returning to school.



In 2013, YFC and Quad-cities area nonprofit, **Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ)** each received a three-year grant from **United Way of Yavapai County** to collaboratively partner and administer a grant to study weekend backpack processes and establish uniformed nutritional standards and recommendations for countywide best practices in food cost, efficiency, and expansion of backpack outreach. It is estimated that 1,200-1,500 weekend backpacks of food are distributed weekly across Yavapai County.

The organizations participating in the study include **Beaver Creek School District (BCSD)**, **Chino Valley Unified School District (CVUSD)**, **Cottonwood-Oak Creek Unified School District (COCSD)**, **Humboldt Unified School District (HUSD)**, **Prescott Unified School District (PUSD)**, **Sedona-Oak Creek Unified School District (SOCSD)**, and **Verde Valley School (VVS)**.

Since 2009, Yavapai Food Council has partnered with Verde Valley faith-based organizations and the **Sedona Community Food Bank** to provide weekend backpacks for kids. In 2013, **Verde Valley School** staff and students joined the effort by adding a youth pantry that provides 100% of the food for the weekend backpacks delivered to Big Park Community School (Village of Oak Creek) students.

Yavapai Food Council recognizes **Christ Lutheran Church (Sedona)**, **Jewish Community of Sedona/ Verde Valley (JCSVV)**, **United Methodist Church (Sedona)**, and **Unity Church (Sedona)** for their ongoing dedication, monetary donations, volunteer commitment and partnership with YFC in providing nearly 5,000 weekend backpacks for kids in the Verde Valley since 2009.

Yavapai Food Neighbors Project provides a large portion of weekend backpack and youth pantry food in the Verde Valley. As a direct result of the child-friendly food collected in 2013 through the Food Neighbors Project, weekend backpack costs were reduced from \$10 to \$2 per backpack.

Youth Pantries

In 2013, YFC assisted in the development of three youth pantries in the Verde Valley providing healthy food to children in child care, school, or youth programs by establishing an onsite food pantry stocked with child-friendly nutritious foods. Verde Valley youth food pantries supported by YFC include **Mingus Unified High School pantry**, **Sedona Red Rock High School Pantry**, **Sedona YMCA Youth Pantry**, and **Verde Valley School Pantry** (developed by YFC, students and faculty specifically for the weekend backpacks program at Big Park Community School).



Emergency Food System Initiative

Bringing healthy food to the 1 in 4 persons who are food-insecure or hungry in Yavapai County. Research estimates 30,000 to 53,000 food-insecure adults and children reside in Yavapai County.

Yavapai Food Neighbors Project (YFNP)

YFC offers a food donor program that provides food to participating emergency food providers



to keep their shelves full year-round. The program is based on the successful Ashland, Oregon-based Neighborhood Food Project that was founded in 2009 and has recently passed the 1 million pound collection level. YFC recognizes The Ashland Neighborhood Food Project for generously providing the operating system software, training, and other services that allowed YFC to start this program in July of 2013.

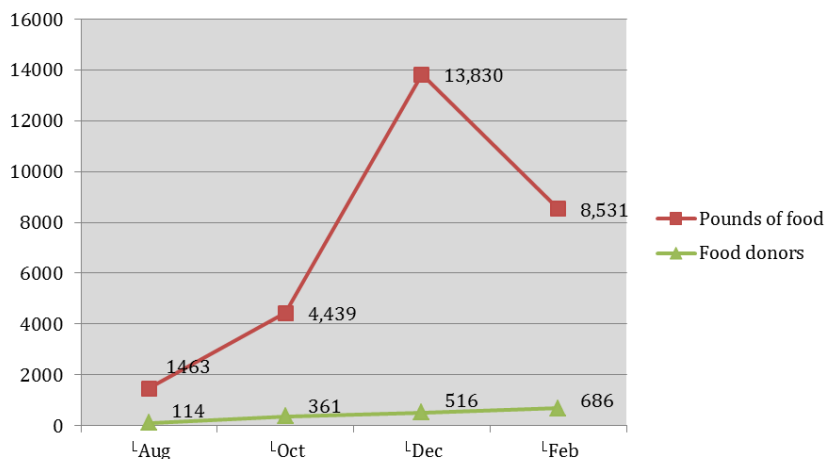
YFC recognizes the **Sedona Community Foundation** for a grant that strengthened the launch of this program. The program is simple and effective. YFC recruits neighborhood coordinators and food donors who purchase a few extra items every trip to the grocery store to fill a green YFNP bag. On the second Saturday of every even numbered month, the donors place their filled bags by their front door for the coordinators to pickup and deliver to a designated collection site. The bags are then weighed, sorted and boxed up by emergency food providers to take away.

Food collections began in Sedona and expanded in 2013 to the Village of Oak Creek and Cottonwood. Communities providing food include Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cornville, Cottonwood, Rimrock, Sedona, and Village of Oak Creek. YFC is committed to providing food from the project to local emergency food providers in the communities where our donors live. Starting the project with a pilot launch in August, YFNP quickly grew to collect a total of over **20,000 pounds of food** (5 tons!) - at collection events in August, October and December in 2013. It is anticipated that the 2014 food collections will triple that amount.

Yavapai Food Neighbors Project will expand in 2014 to Bagdad, AZ and the Quad-City region. The new year will bring new *restaurant neighborhoods*, allowing the project to collect institutional-size foods for Emergency Food Providers offering hot meals for the hungry.

YFC thanks our partners, **Kids Against Hunger** and **Cliff Castle Casino**, for their extra efforts in donating food to this project!

**Yavapai Food Council
FOOD NEIGHBORS PROJECT**



Emergency Food System Enhancement

YFC assists emergency food providers in expanding their capacity to serve their clients.

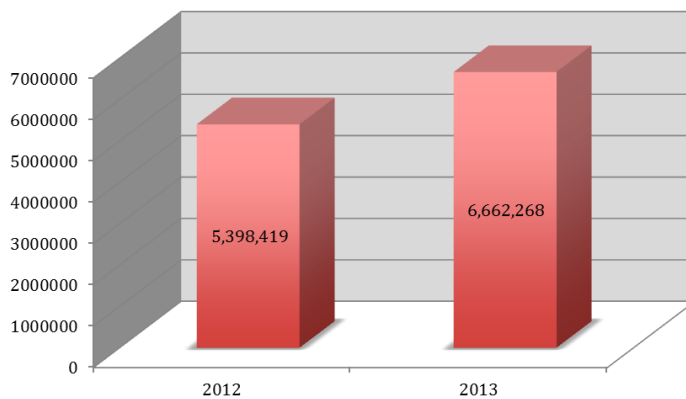
Department of Economic Security's Hunger Advisory Council

Yavapai Food Council participates in the Council to coordinate information and policy-making about hunger and hunger-relief efforts in the nation and in Arizona.

St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

Yavapai Food Council collaborates with St. Mary's in making improvements in the delivery of food to emergency food providers. St. Mary's increased deliveries from 5.4 million pounds in 2012 to 6.7 million pounds of food in 2013—a 23% increase for Yavapai County!

St. Mary's Pounds of Food Delivered to Yavapai County



Arizona Association of Food Banks

YFC collaborates with AAFB in hunger-relief advocacy for Arizona and the nation.

Arizona Community Action Association

YFC collaborates with ACAA in promoting recruitment for SNAP and WIC hunger-relief programs in Yavapai County.

Cornucopia Community Advocates

YFC partners with Cornucopia Community Advocates to produce studies about hunger, make hunger estimates, and to create a Yavapai County Food Plan to improve the commercial and charitable aspects of the county's food system.

Yavapai Emergency Food Providers Directory

YFC compiles and updates the emergency food directory for Yavapai County, including 58 hunger relief programs, to help food-insecure persons find the food resources they need.



SNAP / WIC Outreach

YFC trains volunteers to assist persons in enrolling in these federal-funded programs for qualified low-income individuals and families.

YFC collaborates with the **Arizona Community Action Association** and **Arizona Department of Economic Security** in training volunteers at emergency food providers, schools and other community programs. The outcome of this program is to assist persons with enrolling in SNAP and WIC so they can afford healthy food while seeking employment and financial self-reliance.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) participants use federal payments to purchase food from grocery stores in Yavapai County, amounting to \$42 million of economic stimulus in 2013.

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) participants also use federal payments to buy food from grocery stores in Yavapai County.

YFC offers regularly scheduled SNAP/WIC Outreach training at YFC Sedona and Prescott offices, as well as on location at partner sites.

Healthy Affordable Food Program

Yavapai Food Council's relationships with commercial food distributors allows YFC to provide less-than-wholesale pricing to emergency food providers for the purchase of the most common, shelf-stable foods and fresh produce.

Recognizing that nearly 100% of Yavapai County Emergency Food Providers purchase food at retail when food donations are low, YFC developed this safety net program. In 2013, YFC established agreements with **Shamrock Foods**, **UNFI**, and **Stern Produce** to fill food orders from emergency food providers at less-than-wholesale prices with direct delivery.

YFC collaborated with the **Sedona YMCA** to create a new youth food pantry and weekend backpack program for food-insecure children attending the YMCA programs and West Sedona School. The structure of YFC's Healthy Affordable Food Program and gracious monetary and equipment donations from **BMO Harris Bank** and the **Cottonwood Home Depot** supported the launch of this community service.

2014 will bring expansion of this food-purchasing program to other emergency food providers across Yavapai County.

Healthy Food for the Hungry

Yavapai Food Council obtains grants and donations to allocate to emergency food providers allowing them to purchase fresh, locally grown produce and protein to offer their clients.

YFC has obtained funding from the Gimbel Foundation for the past three years to make mini-grants available to interested emergency food providers that allows the purchase of fresh produce and protein from local farmers.

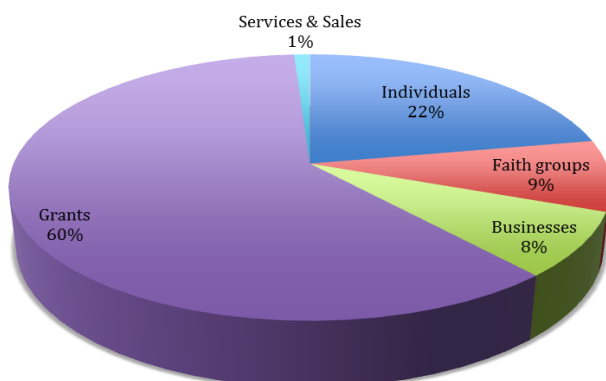
In 2013, this program provided funds to **Cornville Mission Food Bank**, **Adventist Community Services** in Camp Verde, and the **Sedona YMCA** children's summer food program.

Since the introduction of this mini-grant program, over \$20,000 has been granted to Verde Valley emergency food providers. In 2014, an additional \$9,000 of mini-grants will be available countywide, continuing to encourage relationships between emergency food providers and local farmers, as well as provision of fresh, in-season foods to the hungry.

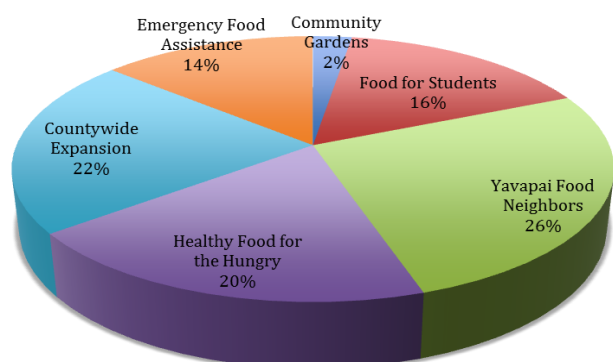
FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income 2013	\$76,770	
Total Expenses 2013	\$72,324	2014 Carry-forward balance \$27,800

YFC Income 2013



YFC Expenses 2013



Food Security Initiative *Encouraging local production and distribution of healthy food to communities in Yavapai County. Research estimates that 95% of commercial and charitable food supplies in Yavapai County are produced outside of the county, rendering county residents insecure in their supply of healthy food.*



YFC collaborates with **Gardens for Humanity** and **Yavapai Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners** to develop local sustainable gardens with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum in schools to prepare for a self-reliant lifestyle.

School Gardens

Providing hands-on education to

students and parents in food gardening, environmental awareness, and academic STEM development. Yavapai County had 16 school gardens located in higher population areas in 2013.

Community Gardens

Furnishes hands-on education in food gardening to individuals and families in community settings and fresh vegetables and fruit for food-insecure persons. Yavapai County had **13 community gardens** located in higher population areas.

QUAD-CITIES 2013:

- (6) School Gardens**
 Mile High Middle
 Skyview Elementary
 Miller Valley Elementary
 Primavera
 Coyote Springs Elementary
 Mingus Mountain Academy

QUAD-CITIES 2013:

- (2) Community Gardens**
 Prescott
 Prescott Valley

VERDE VALLEY 2013:

- (8) School Gardens**
 West Sedona Elementary
 Sedona Charter
 Desert Star Community School
 Verde Valley School
 Verde Valley Montessori—CTN
 Camp Verde Elementary
 Head Start—CTN

- Big Park Elementary
 Mingus Union High
 Camp Verde High

VERDE VALLEY 2013:

- (11) Community Gardens**
 St. John Vianney Catholic Church
 Sedona Community Center
 Sedona Winds Assisted Living
 Crescent Moon Ranch
 Cottonwood Community Garden
 Friends of the Well Traditional Use
 Garden at Montezuma's Well
 El Portal
 Peace Garden at Sedona Creative
 Life Center
 Oak Creek Canyon Community
 Garden at Indian Gardens
 St. Andrews Episcopal Church
 Verde Valley Senior Center
 Greenhouse in Cottonwood

FUNDING SOURCES *YFC recognizes those who have funded our efforts in 2013 with sincere gratitude:*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Alliance Bank | First Things First | Sedona Community Food Bank |
| Assoc. of AZ Food Banks | Food City | Sedona Community Foundation |
| AZ Community Foundation | Gardens for Humanity | Sedona Int'l City of Peace |
| AZ Dept. Economic Security | Gimbel Foundation | Sedona Int'l Film Festival |
| AZ Dept. Education | Home Depot | Sedona Public Library |
| AZ Dept. Health Services | Java Love Coffee Roasters | Sedona YMCA |
| Big Park Council | Jewish Community Sedona/VV | Sedona SVDP Food Pantry |
| BMO Harris Bank | Lisa Dahl | United Methodist Church |
| Canyon Automotive | Marketplace Cafe | United Way of Yavapai County |
| Catholic Charities-Prescott | Mary D. Fischer Theater | Unity Church of Sedona |
| Christ Lutheran Church-Sedona | Midi Store | Verde Valley School |
| Church of the Red Rocks | Natural Grocers | Verde Valley Senior Center |
| City of Camp Verde | New Frontiers Natural Market | Walmart |
| Cornucopia Community Advocates | New York Pizza & Bagel | Weber's IGA |
| Cucina Rustica | ProBuild | Wildflower Bread Company |
| Earth Wisdom Tours | Rising Hope Food Pantry | Yavapai County Community
Foundation |
| ESedona | Safeway | |
| Famous Pizza | Sedona City Council | |

2013 Executive Director Report



I am so proud to be part of an organization that operates with such passionate vision toward making a difference in our community. With the addition of the Yavapai Food Neighbors Project in 2013, over 25 Emergency Food Providers (EFPs) are now regularly receiving thousands of pounds of food donated by over 800 neighborhood donors throughout the year. In addition to food collected, in 2013 YFC solidified partnerships with agencies such as Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and Arizona Department of Education to enrich the programming we can offer the hungry. These relationships allow YFC to offer SNAP (previously food stamp) and WIC outreach to neighbors that may qualify but are not currently receiving benefits, offer free and reduced price breakfast and lunch programs for schools that may not have the ability to provide meals for the hungry students, and to carry meal programs into the summer to feed kids when school is on summer break. *Isn't it exciting to know that during the summer of 2014 we will be serving as many as 500 hungry kids per day with free breakfast and lunch at summer camps and schools county-wide?* How can an organization of our size provide this type of expansive service? The answer is strong strategic partnerships, solid resource management, and an amazing community of dedicated and passionate volunteers! My heart is filled with gratitude for everyone that has shared in this mission and I look forward to the difference we can continue to make moving forward!

Amy Aossey (Amy@YavapaiFoodCouncil.org)

YAVAPAI COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS (EFP)

Download the complete **Yavapai Emergency Food Resource Directory** at www.YavapaiFoodCouncil.org

Adventist Community Services (Camp Verde)	Prescott Community Cupboard
Bagdad Food Pantry	Prescott Meals on Wheels
Beaver Creek Food Program (Rimrock)	Prescott Valley Food Bank
Black Canyon City Meals on Wheels	Rising Hope Food Pantry (Cottonwood)
Black Canyon City Community Meals	St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance (Phoenix)
Bread of Life Mission (Camp Verde)	Salvation Army (Prescott)
Camp Verde Senior Center	Sedona Community Center Meals & Pantry
Catholic Charities (Cottonwood)	Sedona Community Food Bank
Catholic Charities (Prescott)	Sedona Meals on Wheels
Chino Valley Senior Center	Sedona Red Rock High School Youth Pantry
Church on the Street (Prescott)	Sedona YMCA Youth Pantry
Coalition for Compassion & Justice (Prescott)	Seligman Care Club Food Pantry
Congress Food Bank	St. Andrews Church Monday Meals (Sedona)
Cordes Lake Food Program	St. Catherine's Food Pantry (Camp Verde)
Cornville Baptist Church Pantry	St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry (Cordes Lake)
First Baptist Church (Prescott)	St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry (Cottonwood)
Hearts for the Hungry & Homeless (Cottonwood)	St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry (Sedona)
Kids Against Hunger (Cottonwood)	Sterling Ranch (Skull Valley)
Mayer Area Meals on Wheels (Mayer)	United Methodist Church Food Pantry (Cottonwood)
Mayer Community Center Hot Meals	Verde Valley Caregiver's Coalition (Sedona)
Mingus High School Youth Pantry (Cottonwood)	Yarnell Senior Center
Nifty Thrifty Food Pantry (Ash Fork)	Yavapai-Apache Nation Food Bank (Camp Verde)
Old Town Mission (Cottonwood)	Yavapai Food Bank (Prescott Valley)