



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul Feeds Valley's Hungry National Hunger Awareness Day is Tuesday, June 7

PHOENIX, AZ – While the nation will recognize Hunger Awareness Day on June 7th, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul works to feed the Valley's hungry and homeless on a daily basis.

Each day the Society prepares 3,500 meals that are served in five dining rooms across the Valley—from El Mirage to Mesa, as well as at 20 other non-profits in the Valley. It serves more than 1.2 million meals each year, and last year celebrated serving its 30 millionth meal.

The Society has not missed a meal since it started serving in September of 1952.

An average of 32,000 pounds of donated food are processed daily to provide nearly 1,600 food boxes that are delivered to needy and hungry families in Central and Northern Arizona.

In Arizona, 12.5 percent of all households lack the resources to buy enough food to meet basic nutritional needs on a daily basis.

Hunger in Arizona is alleviated by many programs that assist low-income families, so while it is uncommon to find severe malnutrition in our state, chronic mild malnutrition is very common. This leads to harmful effects on learning and development, causes health issues, and disturbs family life.

Summer is a particularly difficult time for families that are struggling to make ends meet. Children are home from school and do not receive the benefit of free lunch programs available through the schools.

So what can the average Arizonan do to help fight hunger in Arizona?

The Society has a role for everyone interested in fighting hunger in the Valley. Whether it's donating funds, donating food, distributing food boxes to the needy, or volunteering in the dining rooms, each individual can help. For more information, please visit www.stvincentdepaul.net.

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a non-profit organization, dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms and general assistance for individuals in need.