



Stepping Up!

FALL 2018

September is FIND's 35th Anniversary!

For 35 years FIND Food Bank's mission has been to fight food insecurity and hunger by providing much-needed food resources. This all began in 1983, when FIND's founder, Wayne Robinson, started distributing food out of the back of his blue Pinto when he saw that his neighbors were in need. This new enterprise was named **Food in Need of Distribution (FIND)**. It was established to feed hungry children, seniors, and adults throughout the Coachella Valley. Today, FIND has evolved from a small

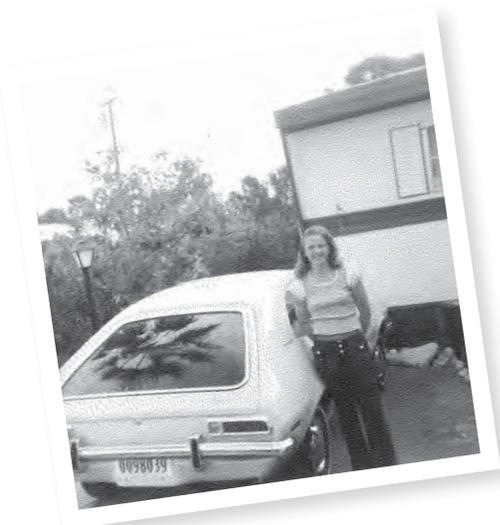


FIND Food Bank Staff July 2018.

fellowship of like-minded individuals into the **Greater Coachella Valley's Regional Food Bank**, providing not only healthy, nutritious food assistance but also outreach services to help low-income households build sustainability and self-sufficiency.

On behalf of the 85,000 children, families and seniors who depend on us every month. Thank You!

Over the past years, FIND has developed and grown significant partnerships with more than 100 social-service and community-based agencies. Our programs include Kids Summer Club, CalFresh Outreach, Mobile Pantry distributions to areas without access to supplemental food assistance, Project Produce, and School-Based Kid's Farmer's Markets. Our fleet of trucks has grown to include 6 refrigerated trucks plus a Mobile Food Pantry. Last year alone, over 10 million pounds of food was distributed throughout the Greater Coachella Valley's cities and remote rural communities.



Wayne Robinson's blue Pinto AKA FIND's first delivery vehicle.



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Message From CEO

Reflecting back on the Cranston/Ribbon Fire disaster response efforts our food bank provided in July and August, and the meaning of feeding those in need for 35 years, I've thought deeply about our journey from just being a food rescue organization to now a full-fledged Regional Food Bank. We have come a long way from our origins of one man using his blue Pinto to ensure that food could be rescued and given to those who were food insecure, to now being able to immediately mobilize a fleet of trucks to move thousands of pounds of food from our warehouse to disaster evacuations sites. All this was in addition to running our regularly scheduled food bank distributions to 100 partner agencies, serving 40 Kids' Summer Club sites and conducting Mobile Pantry sites.

Hunger in our community does not stop, even for disasters.

However, none of FIND's services are even possible without the kindness, compassion and generosity of a community that supports our mission and vision. The pride we feel at FIND Food Bank is not just about the work we do in the community, but it is also about the amazing commitment that people within our community demonstrate. Our community has shown that Hunger in our Greater Coachella Valley is not acceptable. **YOU have stood side by side with us for 35 years, and we will continue to stand together for another 35 years and beyond to make sure we can always help those in need.**

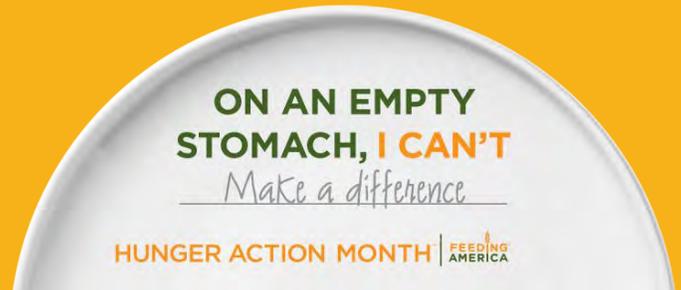
Thank You!

Debbie Espinosa,
President & CEO



Emergency Fire Task Force Meeting

Hunger Action Month



September is Hunger Action Month™, a yearly initiative from Feeding America, when FIND Food Bank joins our fellow members and partners (across the country) to ask everyone to take action and fight hunger in the community. Hunger Action Month is your opportunity to join a movement that has a real and lasting impact on our effort to feed more people than ever before — the need is that great. Whether it's by advocating and raising awareness, donating, or volunteering, you can find a way to get involved that works for you. **THANK YOU** for taking action to fight hunger.

Call FIND at 760-775-3663 for more information, and follow us on:

facebook.com/FINDFoodBank
twitter.com/findfoodbank



Art Guzman distributes food to Fire Evacuees

Saluting Longevity

Celebrating FIND's 35th anniversary of service to our beautiful Valley, it only seemed appropriate to highlight and commend our partner agencies who have been helping FIND distribute and feed an average 85,000 children, families and seniors who are food insecure. Looking back, 6 agencies stand out for the length of time ... 20+ years ... that they have been connected to the FIND family.

Today, we distribute food to 100 partner agencies across the Coachella Valley. The food is then dispensed to each agency's recipients. Together we distribute over 10 million pounds of food annually.

The six partner agencies that we would like to highlight are:

1. 1991, Temple Sinai in Palm Desert began their program in the very early days, when FIND was operated by our founder, Wayne Robinson in Cathedral City. A group of dedicated volunteers pre-selects the food at FIND and then we store it for them until it's ready to be packed and distributed. These designated bags of food are delivered to people who are physically-challenged and/or seniors who are "shut-ins" in Palm Desert, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Indian Wells, Palm Springs and La Quinta. Temple Sinai volunteers serve approximately 800 people each month. As you can imagine, this program is in great demand.

2. 1991, St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Palm Springs became a member agency of FIND. For 27 years, St. Theresa's has been distributing food to our local community in need. Think about how many volunteers it's taken to keep this program going for this length of time. Today, every Monday morning they feed an average of 350 people.

3. 1991, Blythe Emergency Food Pantry became a member agency of FIND. For 27 years, in the heat of summer and the cold of winter, Lloyd and Pat Hollingsworth have opened their pantry doors 5 days

every single week. Often they have had to make the 3 hour drive to FIND's warehouse in Indio to select all of the necessary foods they need. This food is then transported back to their agency by one of FIND's refrigerated trucks.

4. 1997, St. John's Lutheran Church in Palm Desert became a member agency of FIND. With two distribution days, they serve on average 400+ people every month.

5. 1998, St. Elizabeth's Church in Desert Hot Springs started their food pantry and became an agency partner of FIND. Today, their distribution reaches an average 4,000 people every month, which means approximately 1,000 people are able to receive food at their distributions weekly.

6. 1998, Magda Recio has been at the helm of Centro Libre in Indio for the past 20 years. Magda's distribution is once per month, but on that day she distributes food to an average 875 people.

What do all these agencies and the people who run them have in common? They care greatly for their neighbors. They saw a need and fulfilled it, year in and year out. FIND Food Bank honors their commitment to service with our gratitude. We remain proud of their accomplishments. They provide us with a wonderful sense of optimism because together we are dedicated to fighting hunger throughout the Greater Coachella Valley.



Mark Your Calendars Now!

**Giving Society
Fundraising Breakfast**

Friday, November 16, 2018

8:00 to 9:30 am

**Renaissance Indian Wells
Resort & Spa**

This November is our 4th Annual **Giving Society** complimentary breakfast event. Please plan on joining us on Friday, November 16, 2018 at the beautiful Renaissance Indian Wells Resort. Invitations will be mailed in October.

To learn how you can join our **Giving Society** or to **RSVP** early for the breakfast event, please contact **Barbara Ben-David, Director of Development** at **760.775.3663** or by email **bbendavid@findfoodbank.org**

September is FIND's 35th Anniversary!

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FIND continues to make investments to help break the cycle of poverty. This September we also focus our energy and resources in support of Feeding America's Hunger Action Month. As a member of Feeding America, FIND hopes to continue to inspire and mobilize YOU to make a positive impact on the issue of ending hunger. We know this is possible through our collective commitment and dynamic action.



FIND's trucks have a new look!

In support of Hunger Action Month and in celebration of our 35 years of service, we are asking you to take action now and make your donation to FIND, either on our website at www.FINDFoodBank.org or by mailing your check to **83-775 Citrus Ave. Indio, 92201.**

A familiar story and growing trend: Seniors Raising Grandchildren

A woman in her 70s first met our Outreach Associate, Joel Gonzales, at a local WIC office. The woman came in crying and did not know what to do. She was there to get help for one of the babies in her care. Her son and daughter-in-law had come to visit one day, told her they could no longer care for their four children and left. While drug addiction may have played a part in the parents' decision, the grandmother on a fixed income with Social Security, now had 4 additional mouths to feed. When Joel explained how he could help, the grandmother was concerned that she would not qualify for CalFresh/SNAP because she was receiving Social Security. Joel patiently read through the paperwork with her and helped her apply for CalFresh/SNAP, CalWorks Cash Aid Assistance, and Medi-Cal.

Over a month later, the grandmother returned to tell Joel that they had been approved for Cash Aid, CalFresh/SNAP, and Medi-Cal for the children. She was so thankful! She said with the Cash Aid she was able to buy the children some clothes and other items for school that she could not afford. She told him that the children were doing well. She



Joel Gonzalez, FIND's Outreach Associate.

stressed that she did not need the money for herself. She was ok, but she needed it for them. Joel told her that he understood, and explained that is why the programs and resources are available, to help children and families in need.

In recent years, FIND has seen the number of grandparents (and great-grandparents) raising grandchildren continue to grow, with an increasing percentage of local seniors sharing their limited resources with family members. FIND works diligently to connect struggling seniors and families to as many resources as possible to offer stability, reduce food insecurity, and relieve chronic hunger.



Support **FIND Food Bank** and you help 85,000 men, women, children, seniors, and families across the Coachella Valley every month.

FIND Food Bank is Food In Need of Distribution, Inc. Established 1983.

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FINDFoodBank.org

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