



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

NOURISHING NEWS

MAY
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School Pantries Flourish Summer Brings a Challenge

“Vegetables?” “Please.” “There’s lettuce and bread up ahead.” “Thank you.”

And so the conversation goes, repeatedly, with parents driving through the monthly school pantry in the parking lot of Prince Elementary School. Volunteers give out items from peanut butter to pasta to fresh vegetables. School pantries are a popular way for busy parents to get food when they drop off their children at school.

But as the school year ends, the rhythm of the school pantry is about to be interrupted. Of the 33 school pantries who partner with the Community Food Bank, about one third will stay open during the summer. Several school districts will offer free breakfast and lunch at their cafeterias during certain hours.

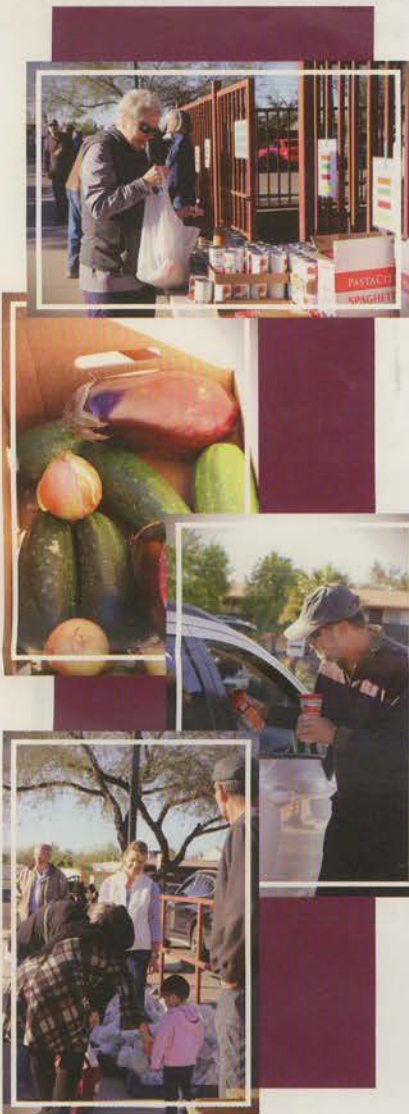
And, because of your support, the Community Food Bank will again make summer breakfasts, snacks, and weekend packs available at several public libraries and some community centers.



Summer is the most vulnerable time for families facing food insecurity as they rely heavily on free school meals to keep their kids fed during the school day. We are working hard to help families get food when they need it.

Community support makes these options possible.

Linda Kraemer, Family Health and Advocacy Manager



¡Ahora disponible en español! communityfoodbank.org/newsletters

What's the Buzz?

Research Finds Rich Diversity of Bees at Las Milpitas Community Farm



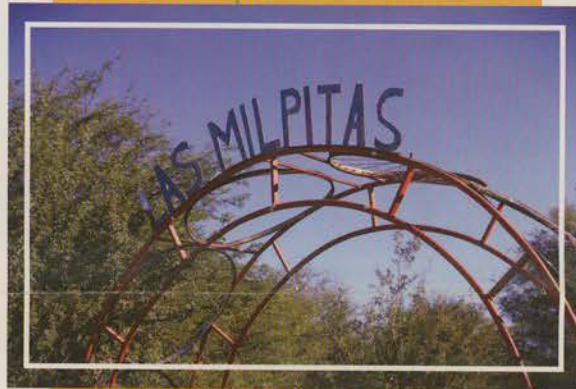
With your support, the Community Food Bank has operated Las Milpitas Community Farm for the last 12 years. The six acres of land along the Santa Cruz River offers free garden plots for people to learn to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

New research finds the farm is also home to a rich variety of resident bees! "It's fantastic," says UA graduate and researcher Tanner Bland. "We've found ten different species we haven't found anywhere else."

The last five years of research have continually found new bee species at the farm, even rare native bees.

What brings them to the farm? The study credits sustainable organic farming, responsibly managed land with a high density of native plants, and the farm's proximity to the Santa Cruz River Park.

Bland will continue researching as part of the Tucson Bee Collaborative, happy to have what he calls a "unique piece of habitat" to study urban pollinators. The work is funded by the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and grants from the United States Geological Survey.



Visit Las Milpitas Community Farm at 2405 S Cottonwood Lane for a Saturday morning workday from 8am – noon. Email Grace at gsaavedra@communityfoodbank.org if interested.



*Bees come for a respite—
and stay permanently— at
Las Milpitas Community Farm.*
