

HONORHEALTH™

# Desert Mission



Annual Report

| 2016

# Welcome

For 90 years, Desert Mission has been improving the health and well-being of our community through programs that embrace the power of resiliency and foster self-sufficiency.

Our legacy continues to be defined by a commitment to serving the community through programs and services that address several social determinants of health. These include:

- Education and enrichment.
- Employment and economic success.
- Food access and nutrition support.
- Assistance obtaining safe and affordable housing.

Reflecting on 2016, the Desert Mission board members and staff are proud of their role in creating a healthier community. With support from HonorHealth Foundation to solicit and steward charitable contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, Desert Mission is helping to fulfill HonorHealth's brand promise of making healthy personal.

A committed staff, generous donors and compassionate volunteers together reflect the values and virtues that define HonorHealth—*integrity, caring, accountability, stewardship, excellence and respect.*

In the pages that follow, you'll learn how Desert Mission is empowering those struggling to provide for themselves and their loved ones by providing resources to overcome some of life's most challenging obstacles. You'll be reminded of the impact of Desert Mission programs through the words of some of our grateful beneficiaries. The real-life experiences shared within these pages serve as remarkable lessons in resiliency.

It's through your generous contributions that Desert Mission can continue to create, implement and evaluate new programs that address specific needs in our community. On behalf of the thousands of individuals and families who rely on Desert Mission each year, thank you for partnering with us to make healthy personal.



**Sue Sadecki, MS Ed.**  
Executive Director  
Desert Mission and  
Community Services

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# About Desert Mission

Founded in 1927, Desert Mission has one operating objective: to provide support and resources that help improve the health and well-being of individuals from all socioeconomic walks of life.

Part of nonprofit HonorHealth, Desert Mission supports the organization's community outreach efforts by serving those in the greater Phoenix area.

**Desert Mission delivers an array of donor-funded programs and services that address several social determinants of health, including:**

- Education and enrichment.
- Employment and economic success.
- Food access and nutrition support.
- Assistance obtaining safe and affordable housing.



With the support of a generous and giving community, Desert Mission is breaking down barriers to self-sufficiency and making healthy possible.

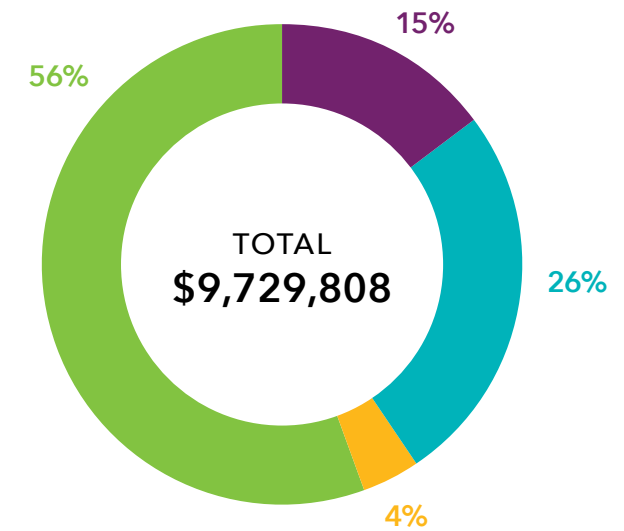


# 2016 Financial Summary

As a service to the community, HonorHealth supports the administration costs of Desert Mission. This allows all donated dollars and revenue to have the greatest impact on those we serve.

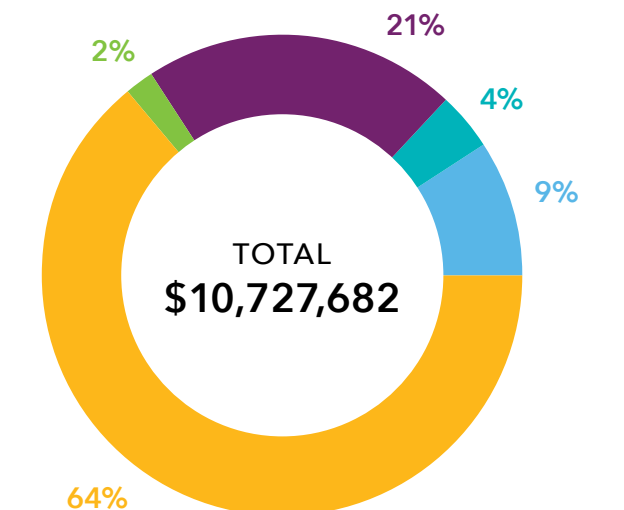
## Revenue

Donated food and services	\$ 5,403,708
Fees for services	\$ 2,519,089
Private grants and donations	\$ 1,423,560
Government grants	\$ 383,451



## Expenses

Food Bank	\$ 6,838,956
Lincoln Learning Center	\$ 2,210,763
Adult Day Healthcare	\$ 1,015,318
Administrative services	\$ 456,048
Depreciation	\$ 206,596



# Education and enrichment

Education is the catalyst for change and can be the key to charting a better course for the future. Desert Mission is committed to providing meaningful education and enrichment programs to individuals of all ages.

## Childhood education and development

A child's learning should never be limited by socioeconomic factors. Desert Mission helps ensure that children 6 weeks to 12 years of age have access to a quality education. Named for benefactor Helen C. Lincoln, Lincoln Learning Center provides an early education program designed to help each child reach his or her greatest potential on the path to school readiness.

Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, coupled with philanthropic contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, enable children to receive exceptional care at the Lincoln Learning Center, regardless of a family's financial standing.



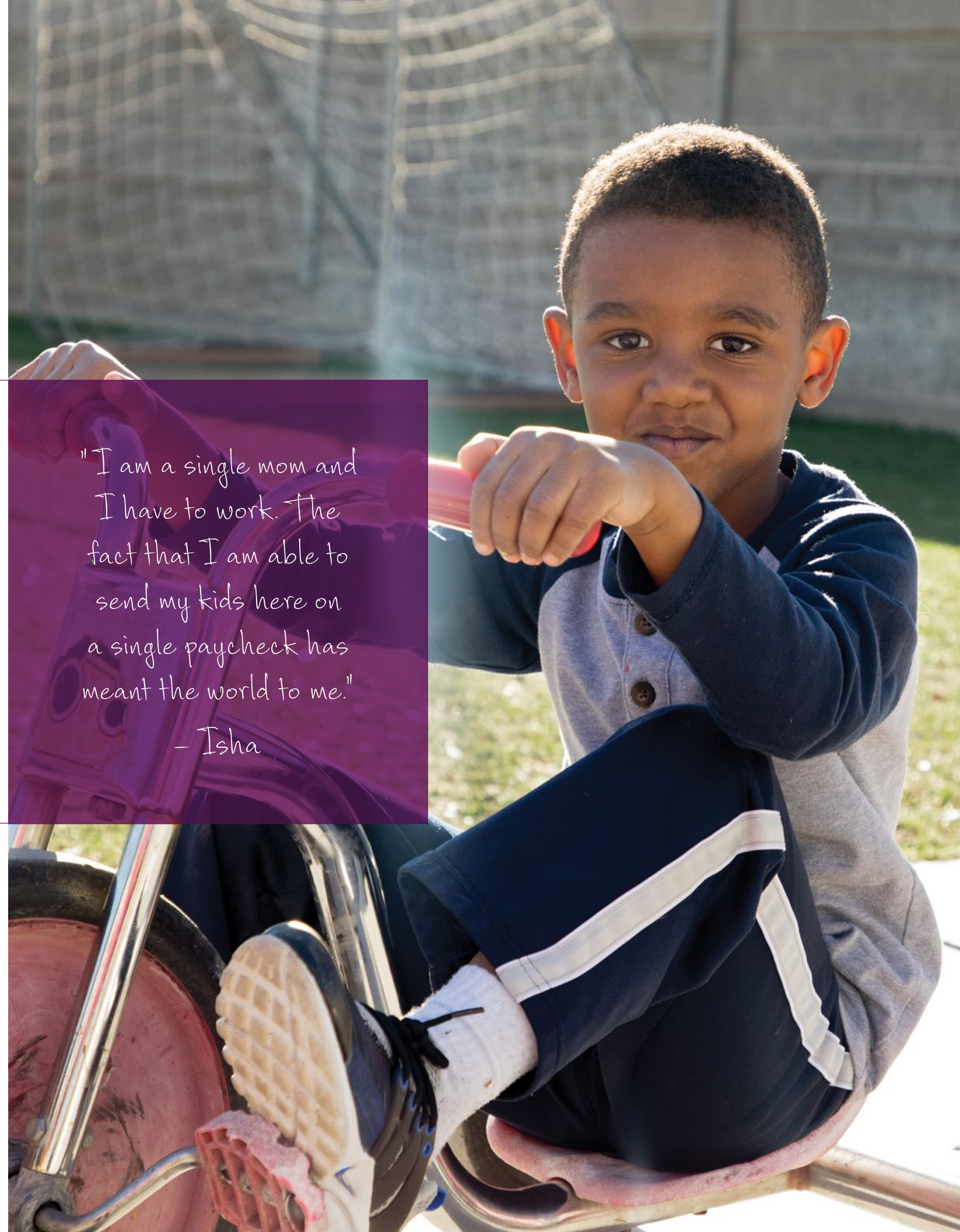
33 percent of Lincoln Learning Center students attend on scholarship.



All Lincoln Learning Center enrollees receive free developmental screenings.



Lincoln Learning Center has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children – Academy of Early Childhood Programs since 1993.



"I am a single mom and I have to work. The fact that I am able to send my kids here on a single paycheck has meant the world to me."  
- Isha



## Nutrition education

Children often learn by doing. At Lincoln Learning Center, kids participate in hands-on gardening activities that complement lessons about nutrition and healthy eating. Introducing healthy food practices early helps children develop healthy nutrition habits that can last a lifetime.

Seasonal gardening classes at Desert Mission Food Bank help individuals learn how and what types of produce they can grow, increasing the nutritional value and even the size of the meals they prepare. Taking it a step further, cooking demonstrations use food distributed through Desert Mission Food Bank and the Fourth Street Market to teach clients how to make healthy eating a tasty and affordable reality.



Free seeds and seedlings are available to Desert Mission clients.



A nutrition coordinator hosts food demonstrations, shares recipe ideas and offers cooking tips.



"This program was entertaining, informative and empowering. I will shout to the world that whoever wishes to purchase a home for the first time should attend this class!"  
- Wendy

"A lot of times, I'll make the recipes that the food bank provides. One time they had spaghetti squash and instructions on how to cook it. It was really good. My daughter loves pasta, so she thought it was great, and it was much healthier for us."  
- Marzia



## Homebuyer education

Many people hope to one day own their own home. The path to home ownership can sometimes be difficult to navigate. Through Desert Mission's Neighborhood Renewal Program, community members receive one-on-one counseling and education classes on various aspects of home buying and ownership.

**Counselors approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development educate clients about:**

- The financial steps to buying a home.
- Protecting their credit.
- Preventing foreclosure.
- Managing their cash flow.
- Accessing appropriate community resources.
- Loan eligibility and application assistance.
- Calculating a feasible mortgage payment that takes into account their income and spending habits.
- Preparing for the unexpected expenses of home ownership.



Bi-lingual housing counselors and telephonic translation services make counseling available in 30 languages.



Pre-purchase homeownership counseling aims at helping new homeowners build a strong financial foundation.

## Senior enrichment

Finding a safe, affordable and active environment where older adults can enjoy their days can be challenging. This is particularly true for the estimated 5.4 million Americans currently living with Alzheimer's disease. Desert Mission's Adult Day Healthcare enrichment program gives physically and/or cognitively impaired seniors a fun and safe place where they can remain active and independent. It also gives family caregivers much-needed respite time.

Operated alongside the Lincoln Learning Center, Adult Day Healthcare boasts intergenerational learning in an environment that supports social interaction and fosters independence. The program's structured, age-appropriate activities keep seniors engaged and energized. As a result, they often can continue living at home longer, keeping families together and decreasing nursing home expenses.

For family caregivers, the program offers a reprieve from the physical and emotional tolls of caregiving. The Adult Day Healthcare program gives caregivers an opportunity to step away from their caregiving duties to focus on themselves while not having to worry about their loved one.



On-staff registered nurses oversee medication schedules and monitor vitals, as needed.



Caregivers receive social service support and counseling related to their role, including monthly caregiver support groups.



Program activities include guest entertainers, trips to local venues, games, and more.



83%

of Adult Day Healthcare participants are living with Alzheimer's disease.

63%

of Adult Day Healthcare participants receive financial subsidies to cover program expenses.

"My mother loves coming here. Every day she asks, 'Is this the day I go?' She likes the people here. The staff is beyond fabulous. I just don't know what I would do without it. I can take time off from caregiving knowing my mother is well taken care of."

- Marilyn

(Her mother attends Adult Day Healthcare three times a week.)

# Employment and economic success

Employment is a cornerstone of self-sufficiency and, ultimately, economic success. A pilot program launched in 2016, Desert Mission's Financial Resiliency Program helps those struggling to secure steady employment through a partnership with St. Joseph the Worker. The Financial Resiliency Program also helps individuals across all income levels learn to better manage their personal finances through financial counseling programs and services.



## Securing employment

Desert Mission and St. Joseph the Worker together provide training and resources to help the working poor and those coping with income volatility achieve self-sufficiency through quality employment. Income volatility can result from part-time, unsteady work.

A nonprofit organization, St. Joseph the Worker removes common barriers to employment and focuses on the unique strengths of individuals so they can secure the best possible job based on their talents.



### Those seeking one-on-one employment assistance benefit from:

- Resume development and mock job interview training.
- Financial assistance for certification and/or licensure.
- Job-specific tools and/or safety equipment.
- Transportation to help obtain or sustain employment.



22 people participated in Desert Mission's pilot Financial Resiliency Program in 2016.

## Achieving economic success

Desert Mission's Financial Resiliency Program helps individuals from all walks of life achieve economic success through free monthly financial education classes and one-on-one financial counseling.

### Economic success strategies include:

- Tips on creating and sticking to a budget.
- Assistance repairing credit, including help establishing relationships with traditional banking institutions.
- Help obtaining new/better employment.



In 2016, 27 clients received employment assistance.



14 families attended financial education class in 2016.

"The most useful part of the class was acknowledging bills before spending and learning to build savings even when it doesn't seem there is money to save." – Desert Mission client

# Food access and nutrition support

The link between hunger and poor health is undeniable. Desert Mission is combatting food insecurity across the income spectrum by helping to bridge nutrition gaps that negatively affect the health and well-being of community residents and HonorHealth patients alike.

## Desert Mission Food Bank/ Fourth Street Market

The rising cost of food takes a tremendous toll on those already struggling to provide for themselves and their loved ones. Desert Mission Food Bank, which earned the name Fourth Street Market for its grocery store setup, provides free and reduced-cost food to thousands each year.

Whether using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/food stamp benefits to buy food or receiving a free federal emergency food box, countless clients rely on the Food Bank.

### Some of the most utilized programs include:

- **Bargain Basket:** Provides an estimated \$80-\$100 in frozen meat, fresh produce, bread and canned goods for \$15 in cash or supplemental nutrition program benefits.
- **Emergency Food Box:** Provides monthly food packages to those who reside in Desert Mission's service area and are in crisis.
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors:** Gives monthly food packages to individuals 60 and up who live in Desert Mission's service area and who meet federal guidelines.
- **Infant Emergency Food Box:** Provides families with a monthly box of items to support a baby's developmental needs.
- **Community Nutrition Garden:** Grows fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables at the Food Bank.



1 in five Arizonans  
faces food insecurity.



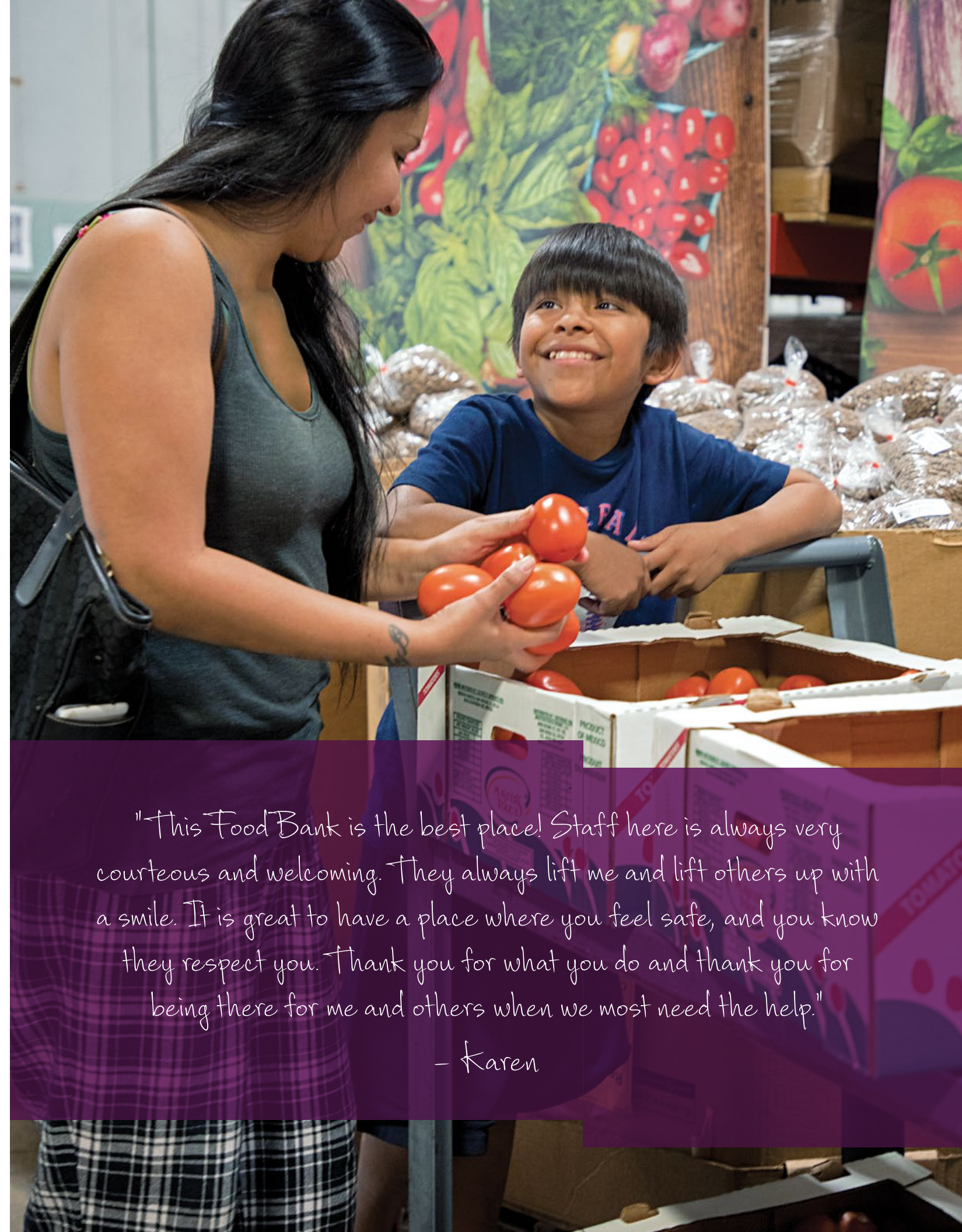
Food insecurity is  
associated with poorer  
health outcomes for  
those with acute and  
chronic diseases.



48,390 Emergency  
Food Boxes were  
distributed in 2016.



More than 15,000  
families benefited  
from Food Bank  
services last year.



"This Food Bank is the best place! Staff here is always very courteous and welcoming. They always lift me and lift others up with a smile. It is great to have a place where you feel safe, and you know they respect you. Thank you for what you do and thank you for being there for me and others when we most need the help."

- Karen



## Snack Pac Program

"Too hungry to learn" is a dangerous condition that hinders a child's ability to learn, grow and thrive. Children who receive free or reduced-cost breakfasts and/or lunches at school often go hungry over the weekend. Desert Mission fights childhood hunger with a Snack Pac program that gives school-age children across metropolitan Phoenix kid-friendly, nutritious food packages to help keep hunger at bay. Each Snack Pac contains breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items.

Children identified by school social workers as being at risk for weekend hunger can receive food boxes from Desert Mission.



36,200

Snack Pacs were distributed in 2016.



Arizona ranks third in the nation for childhood food insecurity.



Children living in food-insecure households are substantially more likely to be diagnosed with iron deficiency, anemia, asthma, mental health problems, cognitive impairment and behavioral disorders.



26 schools in the Washington Elementary and Deer Valley school districts benefit from the Snack Pac program.



Phoenix Public Library's Acacia branch and Sunnyslope Community Center are Snack Pac distribution sites.



"We are school social workers and we serve Washington Elementary School, a large Title I school in the greater Phoenix area. All of our students receive free breakfast and lunch, which indicates an extreme rate of poverty in the school attendance area. As school social workers, we are in charge of the weekly distribution of Snack Pacs to our students.

We have been able to provide this assistance to many families who are homeless or in transition, living in hotels and shelters.

Snack Pacs have been very helpful to our school community. Within the past year, we have seen an increase of referrals to our Snack Pac program – families have greatly benefitted.

On behalf of the staff at Washington who know what a big impact these Snack Pacs are having on our students and families, THANK YOU!"

## Community Supported Agriculture

Fruits and vegetables are key ingredients to good nutrition. To support USDA guidelines that recommend everyone add more fruit and vegetables to their diets, Desert Mission partnered with Crooked Sky Farms for a Community Supported Agriculture program. Through the program, weekly shares of organic seasonal produce are delivered direct from a local farm.

### Shares are available for pickup at:

- Desert Mission Food Bank
- HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center
- HonorHealth Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center



1,300 pounds of fresh organic produce were donated to Desert Mission Food Bank in 2016.



You can buy Community Supported Agriculture shares using cash, credit or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.



## Diabetes wellness

In 2016, Desert Mission Food Bank launched a pilot Diabetes Wellness Program that centers on using food as medicine for select HonorHealth patients. Through referral from a physician or other clinical care team member, patients work with their healthcare team to outline a six-month nutrition and wellness plan to better manage their diabetes through food and lifestyle changes.

### Diabetes Wellness services include:

- Consultation with their physician every three months.
- Lab work specific to their diabetes care and management.
- Diabetes monitoring education from an HonorHealth transition specialist, including home visits.
- Wellness food boxes from Desert Mission Food Bank.



To date, 47 people have participated in the pilot Diabetes Wellness Program.



The program serves patients from all HonorHealth medical centers and physician practices.

# Safe and affordable housing

Having a safe, affordable place to call home is essential to your health and well-being. Through a robust Neighborhood Renewal Program centered on education, housing counseling and support with home repairs, Desert Mission helps community members improve their living situations while building stronger communities.



## Counseling services

**Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency that provides:**

- Credit reviews to assess income stability, cash flow and assets.
- Loan eligibility and application assistance.
- Pre-mortgage lender appointments.
- Mortgage payment calculations that take into account income and spending habits.

## Home Repair Assistance

Supported by charitable contributions, Desert Mission's Neighborhood Renewal Program helps outfit homes with necessary equipment to ensure that elderly or disabled individuals can live and function safely in their homes. This includes installing homes with grab bars, wheelchair ramps and security items such as window and door locks.



**\$80,000 in emergency home repairs were done through the Neighborhood Renewal Program in 2016.**



*"I wouldn't be able to wash my dishes or take a bath without Desert Mission. I couldn't fix the plumbing myself. They also put a working lock on my door. I would recommend Desert Mission!"*  
- Eileen

# Thank you for making an impact

 2,553 Volunteers

 Donated 38,498 hours of service

 Equaling \$907,409 of value to Desert Mission

Because of your service and generosity Desert Mission is able to further its efforts to empower individuals and strengthen our communities.



## Corporate and Foundation Donors

Account Recovery Services, Inc.  
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Affiliated Hospitalists, PLC  
Albertsons Companies Foundation  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
Alliance Painting, Inc.  
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Contributions from listed donors were received from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2016.

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*Community Volunteer*

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**Michelle Pabis**  
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Food Bank/  
Fourth Street Market



Adult Day  
Healthcare



Lincoln  
Learning Center



Neighborhood  
Renewal

**HONORHEALTH**<sup>TM</sup>

**Desert Mission**

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*Volunteer opportunities available.*