



When I moved to the Phoenix area in 2005 and started a native plant nursery, I volunteered at Saguaro Jane's, a food pantry located near Wickenburg.

Food, Gardens, and Home. It is these essential elements that I to bring to Our Neighbors Farm and Pantry in Safford. ~ Julie Plath

Julie Gunnett (right) handing her keys over to Julie Plath (left) at Julie Gunnett's retirement party.

Farewell To One Heck Of A Volunteer

Julie Gunnett has been an integral part of the success of our pantry and we are going to miss her tremendously as she transitions to retirement. She is a no-nonsense kind of person that works hard and gets the job done without complaint. She is our box truck driver and works several hours picking up and delivering food three days a week. When we need extra help, she is the first to volunteer her time. She is not just a volunteer, she is a friend to all staff and volunteers and always puts a smile on our faces and food in our bellies. She brings homemade confections pretty much daily and sometimes smoked venison and elk for us to snack on. There will be a hole in our hearts (and stomachs) when she retires at the end of February. Julie you will truly be missed!

AZ Gives Day

Donate on AZ Gives Day and still receive your tax credit. We can win prize money in one of many categories which more than covers the small fee we pay to process your online donations. If you don't want to donate online, drop by the pantry and hand us your check.

If you own a business and would like to make a matching donations, give us a call at 337.326.0709 or stop by so we can set that up.

WOW!

It's so easy to support your neighbors in need at NO COST TO YOU! Instead of paying your taxes to the state, you can redirect them to ONF&P and claim them on your 2019 taxes until April 15th.

Just fill out a couple of short forms, turn them in with your taxes and donation receipt, and wait for the state to send you a reimbursement check!

Support your neighbors through the Arizona Tax Credit. UWGGC presenting check to Deanna and her students at ONF&P garden during garden education program.



Way to go Safford Unified School District Teachers

School groups have been attending garden education programs free of charge. Even though we LOVE teaching concepts in a variety of school subjects, it's hard for us to maintain the costs. Deanna, the first teacher to participate in this program, submitted and received a United Way of Graham & Greenlee Counties grant to cover the costs of attending, a few farm supplies for students, buses, and other student supplies. We are grateful that our participating teachers and the United Way grant committee feel that our education program is an asset to our community.



DONATE TODAY!

Donate on AZGives website anytime before midnight on April 7th at <https://www.azgives.org/ourneighborsfarm>

Donate on ONF&P website at www.ourneighborsfarm.org

Donate at the pantry or mail in a donation to ONF&P, 1020 S 10th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

Or call Stacey to pick up your donation, 337.326.0709

2020 NEWSLETTER SPRING





I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of this community, and beyond, to help those in need. While talking to donors, visitors and clients, I have found that there are misunderstandings concerning ONF&P budget and grants.

There are basically 3 properties contained within ONF&P organization. We distribute food to those in need within the pantry. We grow food for the pantry and provide education to youth and adults within the garden. We house the Executive Director and NCCC AmeriCorps members (when we are chosen to receive NCCC volunteer help) on the Cactus Property. The cactus property is also where we store farm equipment that is needed seasonally and excess food throughout the cooler months.

There are many costs associated with the programs we offer which include the following:

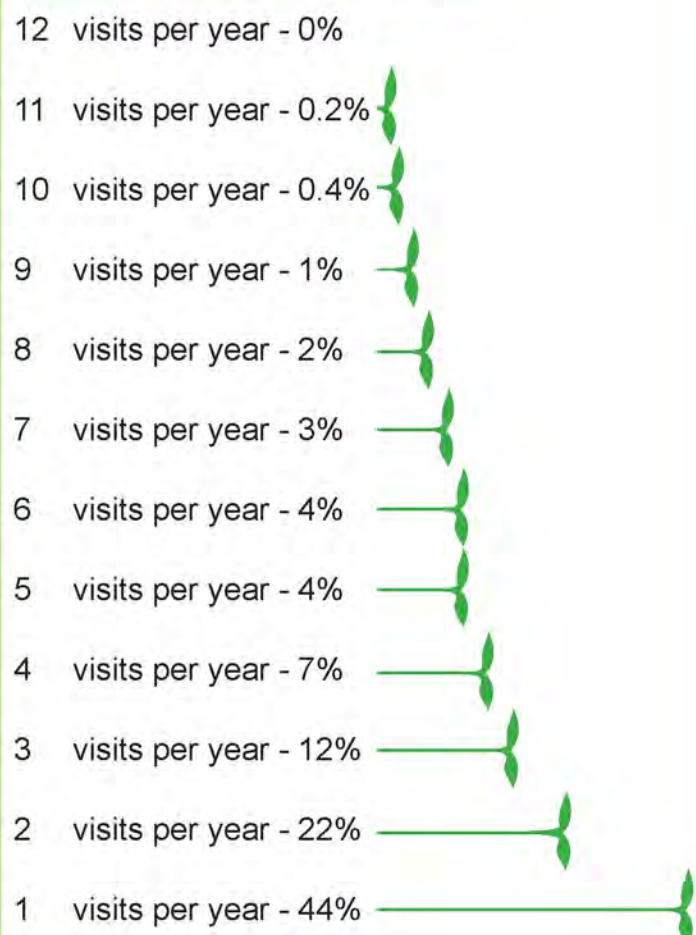
- Insurance (truck, all buildings, staff, volunteers, and visitors),
- Fuel/maintenance on box truck (food pick-up and delivery)
- Farming equipment/supplies/maintenance
- Garden education program
- Equipment/supplies
- Water & electricity for all buildings and properties
- Donor software
- Memberships
- Website/domain upkeep and maintenance
- Payroll and taxes
- Volunteer expenses (T-shirts, thank you dinner)
- Employee/volunteer training
- Garden/pantry/cactus property repairs and improvements.

Many, including our own volunteers, are under the impression that grants pay for operating costs, such as the monthly expenses above. Grants are used for new projects/programs or to grow existing ones that will improve the community or the organization in some way. They are not meant to sustain the organization or a particular program. There are many conditions and restrictions with grants and the funds must be spent only on the specified project strictly following the budget we submit. We have relied heavily on grants but this is not sustainable.

To become sustainable, we need a dedicated donor base to help fund our operating costs. That being said, I would like to thank our community, our donors and our 2019 grantors. United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties, Freeport-McMoRan, Community Food Bank of Southeastern Arizona, National Science Foundation, and Arizona Community Foundation have enabled us to purchase equipment, supplies, a large food storage container, work on strategic planning, and provide many improvements to the garden and pantry. Our community and donors have enabled us to “keep the lights on” so to speak. Without each of you, we would not be here!

Stacey Scarce

Individual Client Visits Per Year



Why We Work And Volunteer For ONF&P

Our staff, volunteers, and board members volunteer for a variety of reasons, please read on to learn why.

I love to see things grow – children, plants, relationships – to show people how to garden, appreciate nature and show where their food comes from.



I want a thriving community with fewer obstacles to success, so I do my part through volunteerism.

I want to work together as a family to help one another and so that my children carry this on with their children.

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“I want a thriving community with fewer obstacles to success, so I do my part through volunteerism.”

“I want to work together as a family to help one another and so that my children carry this on with their children.”

“I want to help people have fresh nutritious food to eat.”

“I enjoy working with plants and people that volunteer here.”

“I love to interact with people and it’s important that people get fed.”

“I like to make a difference in the community by giving back and I like to meet new people.”

ONF&P Volunteers of the Month

We are proud of the work our volunteers do to help our community and happy to work beside such selfless, dedicated friends of ONF&P. Our pantry and garden volunteers log over 160 hours per week. Our first volunteers of the month were Rudy Cano, Julie Gunnett, and Lou Anne Benzinger.

This month’s volunteer of the month is Barbie Spinning. Barbie is a long-time volunteer and knows the ins and outs of the garden, education program, and pantry. She is quick to fill in as a garden educator and pantry helper but her passion is working in the garden. She is invaluable because of her knowledge, dependability, work ethic and great attitude. According to Janine, there is no limit to what Barbie can do, from turning soil and

planting to painting and doing all of the little things that others don’t see. We are all so happy Barbie makes time to work with us each week as we know she volunteers in other places spreading joy to our community. Thank you, Barbie, we hope you stay with us for a long time to come!

NCCC AmeriCorps Volunteers

The NCCC team is made of twelve 18-24 year old’s that have taken time out of their lives to volunteer for 11 months. They reside in all parts of the United States and to my elation, one of those this year is from Louisiana. I finally have someone to remanence about all the good things Louisiana has to offer, which is mostly food and the swamp. They arrived in January and will finish their assignment at the end of March. They are working with Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry, Gila Watershed Partnership, and Graham County Extension Services during the week but have worked with many other organizations on the weekends to fulfill their volunteer requirements.

They have worked on many projects these past 8 weeks. They have erected fencing and gates, installed weed barriers and drip tape, built and painted benches and a kiosk, prepared and planted gardens, replaced underground piping and repair irrigation, built water tank foundation, organized files and scanned old files, helped pantry clients, taught school groups, torched and pulled invasive plants, and much, much more. Without them we could not accomplish many grant projects. Thank you Fire 6 Team for volunteering in our community.



Welcome Our New Pantry Manager

Food and gardens have always been tied together in my lifetime. Early memories include harvesting kohlrabi from my grandparent’s huge vegetable garden; then crunching on the water-iced slices.

I studied horticulture, and have worked with volunteers, students, and international students from all walks of life and experiences by sharing and teaching garden skills.