



Phoenix Rescue Mission™

Transforming lives. Transforming our city.

Fill-A-Bag, Feed-A-Family

Neighborhood Volunteer Handbook

Food Bag Pick-up Schedule:

2016

- Saturday, March 12th
- Saturday, May 14th
- Saturday, July 9th
- Saturday, September 10th
- Saturday, November 12th

The *Fill-A-Bag, Feed-A-Family* program is a **donor** drive, not a food drive—it is designed to build relationships, to build community, to build unity in Christ!

Psalm 145:16 *"When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing."*

Rather than asking for one-time contributions of food, volunteers engage their neighbors to become long-term donors. The continuous meetings are a platform to build godly relationships and to invite neighbors to your fellowship. Neighbors experience a strong sense of community, participating and growing with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Neighbors commit to giving a small amount of food every two months, which provides the Phoenix Rescue Mission and other Christ-centered missions with a steady supply of fresh and nutritious food. In addition to meeting the needs of our Community Market every week, the program will allow us to direct the provision of food to various areas of Phoenix in need. In times of crisis, we would have the flexibility to rapidly redirect food to meet the highest need.

How *Fill-A-Bag, Feed-A-Family* Works

It's a remarkably simple system, built primarily around two types of volunteers:

- 1) **Neighborhood Volunteers**, who organize neighbors and friends to become food donors.
- 2) **Neighbors and friends**, who agree to give food every two months.

The Process begins when a Neighborhood Volunteer takes a supply of information cards and some orange, re-usable food bags to neighbors and invites them to participate, helping to feed hungry people in their community and around the Phoenix metro area. Neighborhood volunteers build their "neighborhoods" by knocking on doors, introducing themselves and describing the partnership with the Phoenix Rescue Mission. As followers of Christ we are light to the world, we come bearing light to the homes in our local church communities—we have an expectation for the Lord to place souls in our paths who need to hear the Good News—we have an expectation the Holy

Spirit will save souls, heals hearts, and deliver people from false beliefs, addictions, and other strongholds. We have an expectation our heavenly Father will draw people to Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:5 *"The aim of our charge is love, flowing from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*

What happens when a neighbor says "Yes?" You will give them an orange, re-usable food bag to store food in, and suggest that they buy a couple extra non-perishable food items each week when they go to the supermarket.

A week before the pick-up date, you will send a reminder email to each donor to let them know the date and time you will collect the bag. You will also follow up with a phone call the day before pick-up.

Every two months—on the second Saturday of every other month, you will pick up each donor's bag of food, provide a new food bag and information card, then bring all the bags you collect to your local fellowship where the Church Coordinator will coordinate the delivery of the food bags to the Phoenix Rescue Mission. We recommend that a percentage of the food bags collected go to a local Christ-centered food pantry or food bank in your area; please let us know if this is something you would like to do.

Your liaison at the Phoenix Rescue Mission will continuously provide you with reusable food bags and information cards. Our staff will also send emails to you and your donors detailing the success of the program, news, updates and testimonies of families participating in the program.

Neighborhood Volunteer FAQ

1) How much time does being a Neighborhood Volunteer involve?

Being a Neighborhood Volunteer requires a commitment of a few hours every month. You will need to invest more time in the beginning when you're building your neighborhood. This program is designed for Christian fellowships across Phoenix to create new relationships, and to build community in, and around, their church.

2) What, exactly, does a Neighborhood Volunteer do?

As a Neighborhood Volunteer, you will:

- **Visit** your neighbor and share with them the details of the *Fill-A-Bag, Feed-A-Family* program, inviting them to participate them to join.
- **Document** new donor names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.
- **Supply** each new donor with a re-usable food bag and a program information card that includes the next pick-up date and your contact information.
- **Collect** donor food bags every two months; provide a new food bag and information card; bring the bags you collect to your local fellowship or designated drop-off point.
- **Build** a relationship with your neighbors, encouraging them, speaking truth in love, sharing the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3) How much food will people donate?

Not everyone will contribute the recommended items—some will donate a lot, some a little. Graciously thank them for whatever they provide.

4) How many neighbors should I be signing up?

There is no required number of food donors you need to sign up. Our focus is to build if godly relationships and create a consistent food supply. The goal of the program is three-fold:

- 1) To secure a supply of fresh, healthy food
- 2) To unite the body of Christ in service
- 3) To engage local church communities

Thank you for participating. Please contact Tom Crandall at Phoenix Rescue Mission if you have any questions or suggestions. He can be reached at (602) 346-3383 or email him at tcrandall@phoenixrescuemission.org.