

Organization Name #44	Contact Person	Address	City	Zip Code	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Wesley Community Center	Reese Welsh	1300 S. 10 th St	Phoenix	85034	602-252-5609	rwelsh@wccphx.net
Project Description						
<p>Our original proposal, submitted on June 3, 2009, requested \$1000 to pay for food (breakfast, lunch, snack) for our Summer Program. By the time we were notified of our \$500.00 award, we had been approved to begin receiving food from Kid's Café, which will be ongoing. When Linda Hamman called to inform me that we had been awarded \$500, she gave approval for us to purchase food to distribute to purchase food to distribute to our most needy families with children. We selected families we already knew that were experiencing financial hardship. We explained to the parents that the food was for their children only. Every parent receiving food for their children filled out Wesley's emergency food request form, and signed an additional form we developed just for this program to inform the parents that the food was for their children only. Fifteen families were given food under this program, benefiting 45 children. The food purchased and given to each family included the following: 1 gallon vegetable oil, 2 loaves whole grain bread, 2 boxes macaroni & cheese, 2 cans tuna, 2 boxes of cereal, 1 can Kool-Aid mix. We combined this food with bags of donated rice, beans, sugar, and jars of peanut butter, which we had on hand.</p>						
Amount Received						
\$500.00						
How did this project make a difference in reducing childhood hunger in Arizona						
<p>Our families are predominantly low income and have been affected significantly by the current economic downturn. Several of our parents have lost their jobs or had their hours reduced. We are having to allow some parents to pay less than the already low charge for out youth programs (fifteen dollars per week/per child). Other families have asked us to wait for a few weeks for payment. Several of these families are balancing their finances by not paying utility and other bills every month. In this context, the distribution of food provides a crucial support for families and allows them to feed their children while increasing their ability to pay their bills and other expenses.</p>						
Number of children served						
45						
Number of meals served						
Number of snacks served						
Description of meals/snack served						
Description of most popular meal/snack served						
<p>We included cooking oil in the food we purchased and distributed. Oil is not usually given by food banks, but is necessary for the preparation of many meals. Several women exclaimed loudly when they saw that there was oil in their food box. One woman remarked that oil is like gold. Another single mother experiencing hardship because her husband left her asked me to think of her whenever we have oil to give out.</p>						

What improvement/impact was made

This grant allowed us to give our families items that we normally do not receive in donated food, but that are used often by them. This allowed the families to use money normally spent on the items purchased with this grant on overdue bills and other expenses.

How did you measure the success of the project

Our objective was to ensure that children in our neediest families received a temporary improvement in access to food. Therefore, we did not the program. Instead we informed families we already knew in the community that they could come pick up the food. We delivered the food to three families whose phone are turned off because of inability to pay their bills, and could not be called about the food. In this way the program helped meet the basic needs of some of our neediest families.

Will the program continue

Yes, Wesley has been providing emergency food for many years. We are not a food pantry. We give out food when it is donated to us. Donations usually consist of canned goods and non-perishables such as rice and beans. The distribution of donated food will continue as long as Wesley is here.

Additional Information