

Rotary "Lend a Hand" Special Effort to Create Hunger Summits in Arizona - April 2004

You've heard about the wonderful Hunger Summit that was sponsored in July at the Wilson-Batiz Borderland Food Bank in Nogales, Arizona by the Rotary Clubs in Rio Rico and other service clubs throughout the area. This event, as you can read in our latest newsletter on our website at <http://www.azfoodbanks.org>, was quite a success thanks to the efforts of Borderland's Executive Director Yolanda Soto, and the District Rotary Chairman of the event, Jan Collins. As a result of that event and its success, Rotary Clubs throughout the state will be invited to participate in similar activities in their community or region of the state. Rotary's Poverty Alleviation Task Force headed by Zone Chairman Norma Taylor-Roderique and Past District Governor Barb Feder are requesting that Rotary Clubs throughout Arizona participate in a Hunger Summit to be held in every AAFB member bank in collaboration with their Rotary community at a mutually agreed upon date sometime between April 12-30, 2004. An article will be published in the Arizona Rotary Newsletter inviting the Arizona Rotary universe to consider participating in this project.

The primary purpose of these Summits would be to raise hunger awareness and show its impact on communities. Following the lead from Nogales, the Summit is held at a Food Bank so that tours can take place. These Summits would also help those attending learn how to help and get their friends, families, colleagues and communities involved. If the Summits follow the pattern established in Nogales, local elected officials will also be in attendance, along with business and community leaders who will learn about hunger using information from AAFB's member food banks, local nutrition assistance or hunger relief programs such as WIC, Community Gardens, or Senior Meals, and information from AAFB as to what collaboration and cooperative efforts are already underway in our state. This also gives each of our member food banks the opportunity to invite Rotarians and other service clubs to support your efforts through their contributions of funds, volunteer service and donations of food or other needed in-kind items. One nice touch added to the Nogales Summit was a hunger banquet which certainly got folks' attention and something I would strongly encourage you to replicate.

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