



Celebrate with a Ribbon Cutting at the Marana Food Bank & Community Resource Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2024—On Monday, February 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., the Town of Marana, Marana Chamber of Commerce, and Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center (SFB-CRC) will be holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the new Marana Food Bank & Community Resource Center (MFB-CRC) located at 11734 W. Grier Rd.

On December 1, 2023, the MFB-CRC opened its doors, ensuring the continued operation of the longstanding food bank within the community. Marana town officials had met with SFB-CRC Executive Director Carlos Valles and board members to discuss possibilities for the future of their food bank. Compelled by the exchange of ideas and after touring Sahuarita facilities, Marana officials proposed a plan for SFB-CRC to operate Marana's food bank under the guidance of an Advisory Committee, with members from both organizations.

The MFB-CRC is a sister organization to the SFB-CRC but operates under its own budget. All money raised for the MFB-CRC will be used solely at the Marana location. The MFB-CRC will continue serving clients four days a week, maintaining the continuity of services, existing staff, and drive-through service model. Stepping into a dual leadership role, Executive Director Valles will divide his time across both locations to preserve and grow Marana's operation, which first began in the 1950s!

The Town of Marana and Pima County have provided funding for this year, with sustainable funding as a key goal. Donors from the community of Marana have already provided generous donations in the last two months, showing their support.

There is agreement that like the SFB-CRC, Marana is intent on growing its poverty-alleviation capacities. In the future, both organizations are committed to expand the Marana Community Resource Center into a one-stop hub with programs for family support, early childhood learning, health/nutrition, workforce development and rural outreach. Already, Pima County has provided a resource navigator to assist clients in working with County and community organizations. These programs and partners will provide pathways for family stability and economic self-sufficiency.

Please join us on Monday, February 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Remarks and ribbon cutting will be at 5:00 pm. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. To learn more about the MFB-CRC or to donate please visit www.mfb-crc.org.

For media inquiries and any questions, please contact Luissel Palma at (520) 697-0022.

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