



January 16, 2024

HART Pantry

Arizona Women's Partnership
13058 N. Surrey Circle
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Attn: Paula Cullison

Dear Paula and members of the Grant committee:

It has been an honor to serve under your grant for the past year. HART Pantry has had an exceptional year. Our numbers have increased, and we are now helping at least 260 teen students with weekend food and 400 – 500 with our snack supper bags. Our meals have changed a bit after we used focus groups of teens to see what our students would like to eat. The decision was made to alternate our bread with tortillas and provide refried beans every other week. We also added jerky and green beans as these were put forth as good sources of protein and vegetables. Food costs are up as we all know; I have said before that your grant certainly helps financially but the partnership has helped to find more avenues for HART Pantry donors and grants and that has been invaluable.

One of the best things to have evolved this year was to enlist one of our high schools in helping at HART Pantry. Students are transported to the pantry and help to unload and shelve food brought in on the orders. These young people have been so helpful and willing to help their fellow students in this way.

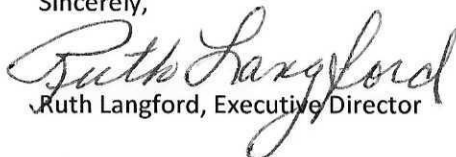
Since we often do not know the students we provide for it has been a very good education for our volunteers as well. We have learned how resilient these kiddos are. They have figured out many ways to use the food supplied. They have shown us that a RAMEN noodle pack can be used very creatively; perhaps this problem solving will show itself in other ways as these students move into the adult world.

One of our Metrics for our program's success is graduation of students from high school who we had the honor of helping. In 2022 we graduated 50 students. In 2023 that number reached 95. Although many things went into these numbers, hard work by students and faculty, HART takes just a bit of credit.

The last thing that we accomplished was to update our WEBSITE. We wanted to be more proactive for our students. More available for their needs. We now have a very modern and student friendly website where we hope to help them find direction and a site that will appeal to our donors.

Thank you again for being there for HART PANTRY.

Sincerely,


Ruth Langford, Executive Director

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