Goodyear PebbleCreek Rotary Canned Food Drive

 Arizona ranks 5th in the U.S. for the highest food insecurity rates. Just over one million people in Arizona are struggling with hunger, which translates to 1 in 4 children, 1 in 5 adults, and 1 in 7 seniors. These are our friends, family, coworkers and neighbors. The Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank serves approximately 50,000 individuals experiencing hunger annually here in the Southwest Valley. All Faith Community Services serves approximately 2000 individuals a month. Unfortunately, the communities served are some of the poorest – not only in the state, but in the country.

 Each year, the Rotary Club of Goodyear PebbleCreek sponsors a large canned food drivefor the Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank and All Faith Community Services. Starting in the spring of 2018, shortly after “chartering” our club members planned, organized and successfully implemented a canned food drive in the PebbleCreek community. Partnering with a local club in the community called Kare Bears we collected 1300 lbs of canned food. Three years later in 2021, in the midst of COVID-19, the need was even more critical. During the Rotary Week of Service” in April the club invited the whole community to become involved. Partnerships were made with local school districts, churches, the City of Goodyear, local businesses and the community. The results were explosive! We surpassed our goal with a final number of over 33,000 lbs of non-perishable food!

 Students from Litchfield and Avondale Elementary School Districts and Agua Fria Union High School District help with the school drives. “Learning the importance of community service and helping others spread throughout our curriculum on a daily basis” says Dr. Betsy Hargrove. Superintendent of Avondale Elementary School. “Our students are excited to get the opportunity to join Rotary on this project.”