

APACHE JUNCTION / GOLD CANYON INDEPENDENT

community news

FOR BREAKING NEWS 24/7, VISIT WWW.NEWSZAP.COM

APACHE JUNCTION Food Bank

Donations sought for Non-Food Items Project

By Kaye White

Special to the Independent

A new group called the Non-Food Items Project is soliciting donations of non-food items such as toilet paper, personal care items, and cleaning supplies to be given to the Apache Junction Food Bank.

According to organizer Anne Fesler-Butts, "such items are necessary for those families of Apache Junction who have lost jobs, have medical bills they cannot pay, have lost their homes, or suffered other financial trauma."

The Non-Food Items Project originated as a one-time "do something of service for your neighborhood" idea on April 21, 2011. According to Ms. Fesler-Butts, "It went so well, we decided we could do it every month!"

Groups involved with the project are essentially the nonprofit groups that organizers Art and Anne Fesler-Butts, Judy and Tom Novalsky, Tuni and Todd House belong to – such as the Superstition Mountain Republican Club; the Superstitions 9.12 Tea Party Patriots; Paws4Life – a dog training and welfare group that trains and certifies Service Dogs; Apache Junction Kiwanis Club; Star Trek: USS Leonidas; Non-Commissioned Officers Association Chapter of A.J.; Superstition Mountain Treasure Hunters Club; Save Animals from Euthanasia, an animal rescue and welfare group; and Panacea Animals Welfare Sanctuary of Arizona, which functions to save, protect, care for and re-home animals.

The group's mission is to collect toilet paper and other non-food items such as personal care, cleaning supplies, dish soap, etc and donate them to the Apache Junction Food Bank. They especially need donations of toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo and conditioner, lotions, deodorant, disposable razors, toilet paper and personal care items.

According to Food Bank Board President Nick Kuzmich, "anyone who has purchased toilet paper recently knows how expensive it has become. There isn't a day that goes by that people don't ask if we have something to give out and almost always the answer is no. This is not something that people think about donating to the food bank."