



News Release **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Steff Koeneman
Community Relations Manager
(520) 594-5610 / 419-2272
steffannie.koeneman@pima.gov

April 23, 2010

Public donations to Pima County Public Library's Food for Fines up more than 60 percent in 2010.

Pima County Public Library announced that donations for its annual Food for Fines campaign increased 62 percent over 2009 totals.

Food for Fines is a campaign held each year. During the campaign, held this year between April 11 and April 17, library customers can pay off library fines by donating non-perishable food items. Each item donated reduces fines by one dollar, up to a maximum of \$10. Food for Fines is held at each of the Library's 27 locations countywide.

"We are delighted by the public's response to our Food for Fines drive," said Melody Ballard, deputy library director. "It shows how members of the community can come together to help one another, and the Library is happy to participate."

This year, 13,215 canned or boxed food items were donated, compared with 8,140 items donated in 2009. Nearly 3,000 items were donated by people with no fines to pay. This is the fourth year of the campaign, and the totals have increased each year.

Jack Parris from the Community Food Bank has said that drives such as the Library's Food for Fines are critical at this time of the year, as donors do not think as much about donating after the holiday season.

In addition to Food for Fines, Library employees also hold an annual auction each year to benefit the Community Food Bank. This year, employees raised \$6,200 to donate.

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