

NEWS RELEASE

**AIA HELPS ELIMINATE HUNGER
2012 FOOD DRIVE BENEFITING ST. MARY’S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE KICKED OFF
DURING 12TH ANNUAL AIA FEBRUARY FRENZY**

PHOENIX, AZ (February 2 , 2012) – With 1 in 5 children and 1 in 7 adults living in poverty, hunger is an issue that affects far too many Arizona families. Recognizing the growing need, the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) has announced a community food drive benefiting the St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance.

During the 2012 AIA February Frenzy Wrestling and Basketball Championship games, fans and players will have an opportunity to help their community by donating canned goods or cash. For each 10 cans of food or \$10 donation, a person will receive a chance to win a 2012/2013 AIA Season Pass or other various prizes. Winners will be announced during the week of February 27, 2012 on aiaonline.org and aia365.com.

To further the effort, the Phoenix Suns will have food collection boxes stationed at the US Airways Center during its matchup against Atlanta Hawks on February 15, 2012.

“We see a real value in developing leadership and philanthropic outreach opportunities for our students. We want to encourage their community participation through this food drive and February Frenzy games are the perfect opportunity for more than 80,000 fans to support these efforts,” said Chuck Schmidt, AIA Associate Executive Director.

Collection sites will be hosted at the AIA February Frenzy events listed below:

Date	Event	Conference	Round	Site	Time(s)
Friday, Feb. 10, 2012	Wrestling	All Divisions	Prelims/Finals	Tim’s Toyota Center	10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. (Finals)
Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012	Wrestling	D-I and D-II	Prelims/Finals	Tim’s Toyota Center	10:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. (Finals)
Friday, Feb. 17, 2012	Basketball	Division IV	2 nd Round	Tim’s Toyota Center	9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012	Basketball	Division IV	2 nd Round	Tim’s Toyota Center	9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 20, 2012	Basketball	Division III Boys	Quarterfinals	Tim’s Toyota Center	2:00, 3:45, 5:30, 7:15
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012	Basketball	Division III Girls	Quarterfinals	Tim’s Toyota Center	2:00, 3:45, 5:30, 7:15
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012	Basketball	Division IV	Quarterfinals	Tim’s Toyota Center	9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012	Basketball	Division I	Semi-finals	Jobing.com Arena	2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 7:45
Friday, Feb. 24, 2012	Basketball	Division III	Semi-finals	Jobing.com Arena	2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8:00
Friday, Feb. 24, 2012	Basketball	Division IV	Semi-finals	Tim’s Toyota Center	2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 7:45
Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012	Basketball	Division I, II, III	Finals	Jobing.com Arena	10, 12, 2, 4, 6, 8
Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012	Basketball	Division IV	Finals	Tim’s Toyota Center	4:00, 6:00

Get a complete schedule of February Frenzy games on AIA365.com. “Like” [AIA 365 on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AIA365) for more opportunities to donate, get involved and keep up to date on Arizona High School Sports.

About the Arizona Interscholastic Association:

The AIA, is voluntary association of public and private Arizona high schools. Since 1913, the organization has created and sustained interscholastic activities that encourage maximum student participation by providing AIA member schools with an even playing field to ensure fair and equitable competition. The AIA believes that providing interscholastic activities for Arizona high school students creates personal development opportunities with a balanced focus on academics and extracurricular activities.

Through its 272 member schools, the AIA reaches more than 95,000 participants in high school activity programs. The organization hosts 4000 championship contests and maintains officiating for more than 45,000 regular season games. For more information, visit www.aiaonline.org and www.aia365.com

About St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance: The world's first food bank is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that alleviates hunger by efficiently gathering and distributing food to 675 sites that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, the Food Bank distributed 51.5 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 200,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 230,000 volunteer service hours. Visit www.FirstFoodBank.org for more details.

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