



March 2024

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support and recommendation for the Surprise Pops Band of the west valley. They have raised substantial financial support for us to buy more food in bulk, and they have also collected over 40,000 pounds of food over the past seven years, helping us in our mission to feed food insecure people in our community.

The pops band has done this through concerts at the Performing Arts Center in Surprise, AZ, at venues such as Happy Trails Resort, Sunflower RV Park, Sun City West Recreation Department at their Palm Ridge venue, Pueblo El Mirage RV Park, Westbrook Village Rec Center, and other retirement centers. Many of these residents are not able to travel to the performing arts center, so the pops band finds a way to go to them and perform for their enjoyment.

All their concerts are free admission. They ask that the audience bring non-perishable food. They have asked for free will donations at the end of the concerts which pay for their normal expenses that a large 100-piece band requires.

The pops band is an Arizona non-profit organization. Some of the normal expenses incurred by the band are replacement and purchase of music to play at these concerts, hall rental at the performing arts center, printing, advertisement, and normal costs such as insurance, membership fees, dues, etc... The pops band not only is a great thing for our food bank recipients, but the band also joyfully brings the musical arts to people less fortunate than others who would not normally be able to afford quality music like they play.

The band members are past and current musicians, and some have played in symphonies, armed service bands, were prior music teachers, or have previously played in big bands, show bands, and almost every kind of band or musical organization imaginable. They are almost all retired, and many have been playing for over 50-60 years. They bring quite a bit of experience and musical talent to the west valley. It is a labor of love for the musicians to practice and provide music for the west valley. None of the members are paid for their time or performances.

There has never been an organization that has done so much, and consistently for so long, for Valley View Community Food Assistance, a non-profit organization. They have devoted a whole page to our community food bank on their website: surprisepopsband.com, and all of their literature prominently mentions bringing perishable food to their concerts.

Their motto on all their printing is "We play for food," (for the Valley View Community Food Bank).

They play a huge and important part in helping us to feed about 456,000 clients every two weeks and another 25,000 during the holiday season every year.

Sincerely,
Jesse Ramirez
Director/Founder
Valley View Community Food Assistance