

Statement of support

As the AZ Health Zone food systems program coordinator in Pima County, co-director of Tucson Community Supported Agriculture (Tucson CSA), and member of the Pima County Food Alliance (PCFA), I am witness to both Tucson's rich food shed and its high levels of food insecurity. ALEGRIA's BIPOC and refugee-centered approach to addressing issues within Tucson's food system will help organizations like the AZ Health Zone and the PCFA to identify, create, and advocate for food policy that serves all Tucsonans. Community-based retail spaces like Tucson CSA have the potential to serve as an incubator for new and beginning farmers and food producers, as its ability to thrive in the future ultimately depends on their success.

Together with a broad array of grassroots coalitions and well-established organizations, ALEGRIA will increase food security in Tucson by making agriculture jobs more accessible, creating more diversity in farming, and increasing food access in areas impacted by food apartheid. With the help of the Kellogg Foundation, I am confident that ALEGRIA will increase food security and strengthen our local food system.

Shelby Thompson

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