The Ever-Changing Face of Food Banks

How much do you know about food banking and The Food Depot? Take another look – you may be surprised by what we are up to!
To our readers:

The only constant is change — a saying you may have heard a time or two. While hunger is the dominant focus of The Food Depot’s work, how we approach solving this crisis will always be open for review. We invite you to learn more about the evolving work of food banks, especially The Food Depot’s.

Hunger is a complex issue, with no single, clear-cut solution. The leadership team at The Food Depot evaluate an incredible amount of data. This data guides a variety of decisions from the daily routes our trucks take to major program decisions to the opportunities we are able to offer to volunteers.

We hope you’ll take a close look at this issue whether you’ve been associated with The Food Depot for more than a decade or have come to recently know us. In addition to our Souper Bowl results and upcoming events, we’ll take a look at hunger in our communities and recent changes made.

Solving the hunger puzzle takes many more people than the staff in the building. It takes many in the community, and we could really use your help along the way!

Questions about a distribution or know someone who needs help? Go to thefooddepot.org. If you can’t find the answer, please email staff listed or call 505-471-1633 and we will be happy to discuss with you.

If you are ready today to support The Food Depot’s work, scan the QR code with your cellphone’s camera. This will take you directly to our donation page.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

The Food Depot staff
Take Note: Community Support

A Unique Showing
Artist Joseph A. Regezi has been painting and drawing since 2004 when he retired from academic medicine and dentistry, according to his artist statement.

Common Ground is hosting Regezi's work through April 30. His unique work is not for sale, but Regezi is willing to gift a piece of art for a donation of $900 to The Food Depot. For more information, contact Jill Dixon at jdixon@thefooddepot.org.

Reflective Jewelry
When you shop at Reflective Jewelry, you can support The Food Depot as well. When you mention The Food Depot in the store, over the phone, or when you check out online, enter "TFD." Twenty percent of the order will be donated to The Food Depot (diamonds excluded).

Amazon Smile
When you shop at Amazon Smile and select The Food Depot as your beneficiary, part of the purchase price is donated to help support our work. Go to smile.amazon.com to sign up.

Target Circle
If you are a part of Target's rewards program, Target Circle, please consider supporting us with your votes for this quarter! See how you can help direct Target's giving to benefit our organization and the community. Go to target.com/circle for more information and to vote.

Plant a Row
When it's time to start the spring garden, please plan part of your garden to donate to The Food Depot. Whether it's a one or twenty pounds of produce, we'll take it and distribute it quickly to those in need. Fresh produce is always in high demand, and The Food Depot always focuses on distributing the healthiest food possible. Thank you!

Smith's Food and Drug Community Rewards
When you are enrolled in the Smith's Rewards program at Smith's Food and Drug, each time you scan your Smith's rewards card, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to The Food Depot. Visit smithscommunityrewards.com to select The Food Depot as your charity.

The Changing Face of Food Banking

Meeting the Needs
The traditional model of food banking is to rescue and collect food from a variety of sources and provide that food to partner nonprofit organizations. Typically, a food bank does not provide direct service.

The Food Depot has taken on the challenge of identifying gaps in its service area, and providing direct service or modifying programs when needed to provide more food to those who need it.

There isn't one simple solution to ending hunger, which is why The Food Depot is constantly improving partnerships, operations and logistics.

These are the some of the unique-to-food bank programs that have been implemented recently and over the years:

- **Food 4 Kids** program has been revamped to include Mobile Markets and School Based Food Pantries (see page 6)
- **Food 4 Pets** program provides a supplemental supply of dog and cat food to rural areas in Northern New Mexico
- **Diaper Depot** provides a supplemental supply of diapers to families
- **Mobile Food Pantry** provides pantry staples once a month in communities that may not be served by other agencies or may show a need for additional food distributions

These solutions are designed to assist families, seniors, and individuals that are underemployed, dealing with illness, raising grandchildren and struggling to make ends meet.
Food 4 Kids Impact Report

Last fall, The Food Depot restructured the Food 4 Kids program to more adequately address the crisis of hunger.

Two new approaches, the Mobile Market and School Based Pantries, were implemented to provide more nutritious food more frequently to children of all ages.

Mobile Market

Mobile Market locations were selected based on the density of low-income families in the area. Mobile Markets took place at Kearney Elementary School and in the Sangre de Cristo community beginning in October 2019. There have been five food distributions at each location since that time; one food distribution at each location each month.

Kearney Elementary School Location

In October, the Mobile Market at Kearney served 65 households. They served 152 households in February. As of March 2020, the equivalent of 28,804 meals has been distributed at this site.

Sangre de Cristo Community Location

In October, the Mobile Market at Sangre de Cristo served 63 households. By January, the Mobile Market reached 102 households. As of March 2020, the equivalent of 25,323 meals has been distributed at this site.

School Based Pantry

School Based Pantries were established and/or expanded in public schools throughout Santa Fe and in outlying counties. The majority of the pantries exist in schools with a Communities in Schools (CIS) site coordinator. The partnership with CIS creates an opportunity to interact meaningfully with students and their families. The availability of grocery items and the development of relationships by the site coordinators helps to overcome stigma and alleviate hunger.

School Based Pantries are offered at the following schools:

- El Camino Real Academy
- Aspen Community Magnet School
- Capital High School
- Chaparral Elementary School
- Francis X. Navas Elementary School
- Nina Otero Community School
- Ortiz Middle School
- Pojoaque Valley School District
- Ramirez Thomas Elementary School
- Salazar Elementary School
- Sweeney Elementary School
- Milagro Middle School

In the first half of the 2019-20 school year, Food 4 Kids School Based Pantries provided nearly 190,000 meals to children of all ages and their families.

Together, We Do More

Serving People in Need

Did you know The Food Depot works with more than 145 nonprofit partner agencies in nine counties in Northern New Mexico?

The Food Depot’s warehouse is located in Santa Fe and our trucks are on the roads six days a week. Staff deliver food and other supplies to our partner agencies to help them best serve people in need.

When possible, The Food Depot works with partner agencies to provide donated computers, refrigerators and other items that will increase capacity for the entire food banking network. When our partner agencies are able to store more food safely, they are able to order and distribute more food from The Food Depot. When partner agencies can communicate more efficiently, resources expand. When capacity increases, many communities benefit.

Donations

The Food Depot accepts donations of gently used appliances and office equipment, including working, recent models of computers and laptops.

Recently, The Food Depot has had these specific requests from partner agencies:

- Residential and commercial refrigerators
- Residential and commercial freezers
- File Cabinets

Questions? Contact Mona at mruark@thefooddepot.org

Together, We Do More

Serving People in Need

Did you know The Food Depot works with more than 145 nonprofit partner agencies in nine counties in Northern New Mexico?

The Food Depot’s warehouse is located in Santa Fe and our trucks are on the roads six days a week. Staff deliver food and other supplies to our partner agencies to help them best serve people in need.

When possible, The Food Depot works with partner agencies to provide donated computers, refrigerators and other items that will increase capacity for the entire food banking network. When our partner agencies are able to store more food safely, they are able to order and distribute more food from The Food Depot. When partner agencies can communicate more efficiently, resources expand. When capacity increases, many communities benefit.

Donations

The Food Depot accepts donations of gently used appliances and office equipment, including working, recent models of computers and laptops.

Recently, The Food Depot has had these specific requests from partner agencies:

- Residential and commercial refrigerators
- Residential and commercial freezers
- File Cabinets

Questions? Contact Mona at mruark@thefooddepot.org
Coming Soon to a Calendar Near You

April 2
Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce’s 2020 Business Expo & Job Fair
Join us for the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce’s 2020 Business Expo and Job Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Santa Fe Community Convention on Thursday, April 2. It’s a great opportunity to network and learn more about the work of The Food Depot.

Go to santafechamber.com for more information.

May 2
Comcast Cares.
The 19th annual Comcast Cares Day will be Saturday, May 2. Join us at The Food Depot for a variety of volunteer projects, food and a lot of fun. At least an hour of time is all that is needed, and there will be a free t-shirt.

Head to thefooddepot.org for more information and email volunteer@thefooddepot.org to sign up for your shift.

May 9
Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
The 28th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be Saturday, May 9. This is the food drive most commonly known as the “food drive where you put your food by your mailbox,” and is the largest, single day food drive in the country. Join many in making this year’s event a success by putting non-perishable food items out the morning of May 9. Your postal carrier will pick up the donations, take them back to the Post Office branches to be collected and taken to The Food Depot.

September 19
9th annual Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive
The 9th annual Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive will be Saturday, September 19. Be on the lookout for your neighbor associations and local businesses to see who is participating this year. We have set the bar high and are hoping to collect the equivalent of more than 400,000 pounds of food. Help us reach this incredible goal for a single food drive!

September 24
Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours
Learn more about The Food Depot’s work firsthand during Hunger Action Month as we host the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours on Thursday, September 24. More details will be available at thefooddepot.org in the coming months.

Support the DiaperDepot
The Food Depot’s Diaper Depot provides a supplemental supply of diapers to families in need through partner agencies and navigation services. Help by donating directly to The Food Depot, 1222 A Siler Rd. You can also host a diaper drive at work, with your organization or as a part of your next event. Go to thefooddepot.org/program-diaper-depot to learn more and to donate online.

September
Hunger Action Month
September is National Hunger Action Month, and we want you to be involved! Make a difference this Hunger Action Month by volunteering, advocating and donating in any way that fits your schedule and level. Every action, small or big, makes a difference in ending hunger in Northern New Mexico!

On Hiatus
Canstruction® Santa Fe is taking a break for summer 2020, but keep a look out for planning materials to be released later this year for the 6th annual Canstruction® Santa Fe in 2021!

We’re So Excited...
The Food Depot is honored to have earned edible New Mexico’s Local Hero Award for Best Nonprofit.

According to edible New Mexico’s website, a Local Hero is “an exceptional individual, business, or organization making a positive impact on New Mexico’s food systems. These honorees nurture our communities through food, service, and socially and environmentally sustainable business practices.” We celebrate this distinction and congratulate all of this year’s Local Heros. Go to ediblenm.com for a complete list. The Local Hero awards will be presented in April in Albuquerque.
A "Soup-er" Time

Souper Bowl 2020

More than 1,400 people attended Souper Bowl 2020, presented by The Santa Fe New Mexican, at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center on Feb. 1.

Twenty-four area chefs brought their culinary creations in hopes of earning attendees’ votes.

The most votes earned the chefs awards in the following categories: Best Seafood, Best Savory, Best Vegetarian and Best Cream, in addition to all competing for Best Overall Soup.

This year’s Souper Bowl continued the center layout, which many attendees have voiced was enjoyable. The new bamboo soup trays were also a big hit, selling out well before the close of the event.

The annual, friendly soup competition between Kids Kitchen’s Executive Chef Russell Johnson and The Food Depot’s Board Member Len Rand was also popular. Chef Johnson won with his Bacon Dashi Consomme with Buttered Corn, Ginger Scallions, and Kizami Nori soup.

Thank you to our participating restaurants. They are the heart of the Souper Bowl, and this event would not happen without them! Please support these chefs and establishments throughout the year:

Vinaigrette, Café Mimosa, El Castillo Life Plan Community, Anasazi Restaurant, Del Charro/Inn of the Governors, Terra Restaurant at The Four Seasons Rancho Encantado, Rowley Farmhouse Ales, Barranca Café, Jambo Café, Kingston Residence of Santa Fe, Sweetwater Harvest Kitchen, Café Bon Appetit Café at IAIA and the Santa Fe Opera, Café Pasqual’s, Market Street, L’Olivier, Amaya at Hotel Santa Fe, AGAVE Restaurant & Lounge, Sabor Peruano, La Montanita Co-op, El Nido, Legacy of Santa Fe, Santa Fe School of Cooking, Boxcar Santa Fe, Nath’s Inspired Khmer Cuisine, Violet Crown.

Thank you to our 2020 event sponsors that are the driving force behind our Souper Bowl. Please support them throughout the year:

Headline: The Santa Fe New Mexican

Platinum: Hutton Broadcasting Enterprise Bank & Trust, David Risser, Charles Goodman, and Peter Murphy with New Mexico Financial Partners, The Albuquerque Journal, Pronto Signs, City of Santa Fe, City Councilor Signe Lindell, District 1


Silver: AllPrint Graphics, John G. Rehders General Contractor, Inc., Hal Burns Truck & Equipment Service, LLC, Santa Fe Reporter, SignPlex, Guadalupe Credit Union, Starbucks, Builders Source Appliance Gallery, Santa Fe Reporter, Lucky Dawg Daycare

Bronze: Santa Fe Audio and Visual, Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP, Christus St. Vincent, Bellas Artes, GMB Old World Plaster & Stucco, Starline Printing, Fairbrother Policy Studies, LLC, David Brenner, MD

Supporter: John R. Adams, Financial Advisor, Raymond James & Associates and Del Norte Credit Union

Photo Gallery

More than 1,400 were in attendance for the 2020 Souper Bowl on Feb. 1.

Souper Bowl continues to be a family-friendly event, with all ages enjoying the competition.

Souper Bowl volunteers pose for a photo before the event begins.
The Votes are In!

Congratulations to our Souper Bowl 2020 winners:

**Best Overall Soup**
L’Olivier
Chocolate Cherry Espelette Pepper by Chef Xavier Grenet

**Best Cream Soup**
Del Charro at Inn of the Governors
Green Chile Chicken Chowder by Chef Jose Guzman

**Best Savory Soup**
Agave Restaurant & Lounge
Winter Squash Soup with Mole Spiced Onions, Pumpkin Seeds & Granny Smith Apples by Chef Colten Johnson & Chef Gilbert Aragon

**Best Vegetarian Soup**
Jambo Café
Ginger Coconut Parsnip with Roasted Sweet Corn by Chef Ahmed Obo

**Best Seafood Soup**
Santa Fe School of Cooking
Avocado Gazpacho with Seared Scallops, Chile Dusted Tortilla Strips and Jicama Relish by Chef Noe Cano, Chef Jen Doughty & Chef Kyle Pacheco

Serving up the Best Overall Soup of the Day - the Chocolate Cherry Espelette Pepper Soup

Photography by Jane Phillips Photography
A Donation with Impact

LongView Asset Management

Recently, the staff of LongView Asset Management donated the equivalent of 10,000 meals. It was an intentional decision by the staff to make a donation with an incredible impact here in Northern New Mexico.

From the Longview Assets staff:

At the beginning of November, we moved into Hovey House, the mid-1800s building in downtown Santa Fe that is LongView’s new home. With a 12-month renovation now complete, we look forward to welcoming you into these beautiful spaces 160 years after their original construction.

This has been an exceptional year for LongView on many fronts. At the same time, we are keenly aware that many of our fellow people face this season in conditions of great hardship. In our state, hunger affects one in every six people and one of every four children, and 37,000 New Mexican’s could lose food aid under the stricter guidelines recently announced. In lieu of sharing a book or other gift as we’ve done in the past, this year we have made a donation to The Food Depot, Northern New Mexico’s food bank, which distributes over 430,000 meals a month to people in need.

Spotlight: Navigation Services

Recently, The Food Depot began offering navigation services for the greater Santa Fe area.

When Frank*, a longtime volunteer at The Food Depot, learned his friend and tenant Lee was struggling financially, he wanted to help.

The question was, where and how to begin?

“It’s very daunting,” Frank said. “We didn’t know where to start. How to start applying, where resources were available.”

That’s when Frank heard about Resource Navigation at The Food Depot.

“I asked around. (Another volunteer) said, ‘That’s what Chris does here.’ Oh cool. Then it went from there.”

Lee met with Resource Navigator Chris Blumenstein. Together they discussed food pantries, SNAP (formerly food stamps), and other community resources.

“(Chris) gave me some really good ideas,” Lee said. “Food and other options in Santa Fe I was not aware of.”

In addition to food, Chris connected Lee to an organization in Santa Fe that sometimes helps veterans with housing. That program met with Lee in his home and is now helping him with back rent.

“(Chris) was a real good guy,” Lee said. “(He) gave me some really good ideas. I thought it went very well.”

Resource Navigation at The Food Depot connects individuals and families to our community’s resources.

It is part of the Santa Fe County Connect resource network, in partnership with the City of Santa Fe.

For assistance or more information, please contact 505-470-2236 or navigator@thefooddepot.org.

*A Names and other identifying information changed to protect privacy.

A Desire to Help

When planning your next event, please consider including The Food Depot. The opportunity to host a food or diaper collection at a birthday party, office meeting or other occasion can have a great impact for those in need. Whether a small or large donation, all of it makes a difference in ending hunger in our communities. All you need is a great desire to help and we’ll help you with the details! For more information, contact Jennifer West at jwest@thefooddepot.org.
Let’s Shred Some Paper!

The Food Depot is partnering with U.S. Eagle Credit Union for their annual Shred Day.

Join us from 9 a.m. to noon at The Food Depot, 1222 A Siler Rd., on Saturday, March 28.

Take advantage of the free shredding service when you donate non-perishable items to The Food Depot. With identity theft becoming more common, shredding your documents is a way to protect your household. Shredding documents also helps keep them out of landfills when they are recycled.

We want this service to be a quick, easy, and safe solution for you (and others)!

Please allow our staff and volunteers to ensure the safe destruction of your documents by remaining in your vehicle. All volunteers will be employees of U.S. Eagle or their mobile shred company, or staff and volunteers from The Food Depot.

**Acceptable materials for shredding:**
- Paper
- Mail
- Paper clips
- Staples
- Computer printouts

**Not Acceptable for shredding:**
- Binders or bindings
- Glass
- Plastics
- Computer parts
- Catalogs
- Metals

Wondering what non-perishable items to donate? Proteins are always in high demand — think nut butters, canned meats like tuna, chicken or beef jerky.

Go to [thefooddepot.org](http://thefooddepot.org) for more information.

Volunteer Program Expands

Volunteer roles have increased and evolved over the years, and many new volunteers join the team every month. Recognizing the Volunteer Program needed more support, the Board of Directors promoted Sarah Carter to volunteer program manager and hired Ash Engel as volunteer coordinator.

In her years at The Food Depot, Sarah has coordinated a variety of volunteer projects, large and small. With the volunteer program expanding, she can dedicate more time to improving the volunteer experience and the administrative side of volunteer programs.

Congratulations, Sarah, and welcome to the team, Ash!

A big thank you to the local Natural Grocers for their recent donation of $4,428. This is the **equivalent of more than 17,412 meals** that will help feed children, seniors, individuals and families in northern New Mexico.

Thank you, Natural Grocers!

Welcome to the team!

Ash joined The Food Depot team as the **volunteer coordinator** in December 2019. The 29-year-old moved to New Mexico from the Bay Area with her partner of 10 years. The two love to travel, and decided to settle in the high desert. Santa Fe was attractive for its community-focus.

Ash is excited to join The Food Depot staff because of the mission of The Food Depot and her desire to transition back into nonprofit work. Her background is in social justice. She feels an important piece of her position as volunteer coordinator is to foster connections and continue an environment where volunteers feel safe, appreciated and recognized.

When Ash isn’t coordinating volunteers, she enjoys writing, meditating, and being outdoors. Ash also watches sports (to be a supportive wife) and enjoys playing team sports of every kind.
National Volunteer Appreciation Week

Volunteers with Heart

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 19 through April 25 and we couldn’t be more excited!

The incredible support we receive from volunteers continues to warm our hearts – just like a good soup from Souper Bowl.

Find our volunteers in communities all over Northern New Mexico – from Mobile Food Pantry distributions to Kids Kitchen to Souper Bowl, our volunteers have all the heart!

Whether a volunteer has completed one shift, a weekly shift, or a number of volunteer projects with us, we can’t thank them enough.

Making sure Northern New Mexicans are fed is hard and long work, and the passion and consistency of our volunteers keeps us going every day. It’s one of the reasons that we can tout 94 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to feeding people.

To our volunteers, a big thank you for being part of The Food Depot team!

Want to Get Involved?

Start at thefooddepot.org/volunteer to learn more about volunteer opportunities, fill out the volunteer application and email volunteer@thefooddepot.org to get scheduled.

Repeat volunteer group Black Women United of New Mexico pose for a recent photo after their sorting shift.

Volunteers from Wells Fargo show off a tower of macaroni they prepared to be distributed.

Young Hands... Even young children can make a difference by volunteering!

Volunteers from Hope UC Santa Fe church volunteers repackaged 8,000 pounds of potatoes in one busy morning.

Top: Starbucks volunteers repackage pinto beans for distribution.

Bottom: A group of volunteers from the Holy Family Episcopal Church (Santa Fe) recently packed diapers for the Diaper Depot.
Save the date for the annual, international day of giving: **Comcast Cares Day**!

Join us at The Food Depot on Saturday, May 2.