LEGACY GIVING

Remembering Nathaniel Pavitt and his passion. Read more on pages 16 and 17.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF
Ways to Get Involved

Partner Agency Needs

TIDBITS
Want to Get Involved?

Donate
You can make a monetary donation:

- **Online:** [thefooddepot.org](http://thefooddepot.org)
- **In person:** At 1222 A Siler Rd., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- **Over the phone:** Contact Mona at 505-471-1633, ext. 112

Advocate
You can make a difference by sharing information about hunger in our communities. Share social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Learn more about and join the Advocacy Committee. Contact Sherry Hooper at shooper@thefooddepot.org.

Volunteer
The Food Depot is always looking for volunteers to join the team. There is an application and orientation that need to be completed. Contact Sarah at volunteer@thefooddepot.org to get scheduled.

Local Food Drives Needed

Help Fill the Gap

Food sources are constantly shifting, and food banks like The Food Depot must adapt. Local support is essential during all times of the year.

Large food companies are constantly improving efficiencies and minimizing food waste – this affects donations.

**When food donations at the national and regional level decline, The Food Depot must purchase food to fill the gaps.**

Local support, including money and food drives, ensures that food distribution is not disrupted.

How can you help?

- **Host a food drive at your organization or workplace.**

  Contact Dot Greene, at dgreene@thefooddepot.org to schedule a barrel (or use your own boxes) to collect food donations.

- **Give the gift of time by volunteering at The Food Depot.**

  To learn about open volunteer shifts and opportunities, contact Sarah Carter, volunteer program manager, at volunteer@thefooddepot.org.

  Donations of food or financial support may be made at The Food Depot’s warehouse located at: 1222 A Siler Rd., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

  Financial donations can also be made at thefooddepot.org.

- **Wondering what to donate?**

  Grab an extra item(s) of what you like to eat at home when shopping. There’s also suggestions at thefooddepot.org.

- **Give the gift of time by volunteering at The Food Depot.**

- **Want to Get Involved?**

- **Donate**

  You can make a monetary donation:

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The eighth annual Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive collected the equivalent of 364,290 pounds this year — an amount that far exceeded prior years for the event. Thank you to everyone who participated!

A special thanks to Linda Wilder Flatt, food drive founder, Jane Freeman, coordinator, the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. The food drive’s success can be attributed to their hard work and support.

This year, there were 25 categories for the event’s friendly competition. For a complete list of participants, go to thefooddepot.org.

The following listed are the winners in their categories:

**NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD & MONETARY DONATIONS**

**LEVEL 1 (1-49 HOMES)**
- Ojito (Arroyo Seco) 5,930 LBS
- La Serena 4,375 LBS

**LEVEL 2 (50-100 HOMES)**
- La Tierra Association 15,619 LBS

**LEVEL 3 (101-400 HOMES)**
- Vista Encantada (VENA) 33,487 LBS

**LEVEL 4 (400-700 HOMES)**
- Aldea 8,452 LBS

**LEVEL 5 (1000+ HOMES)**
- Las Campanas 42,662 LBS

**FOOD DONATIONS**

**LEVEL 1 (1-49 HOMES)**
- Belicia Estates 879 LBS

**LEVEL 2 (50-100 HOMES)**
- Rancho San Marcos 225 LBS

**LEVEL 3 (101-400 HOMES)**
- Pueblos de Rodeo Road 680 LBS

**LEVEL 4 (400-700 HOMES)**
- Casa Alegre 264 LBS

**LEVEL 5 (1000+ HOMES)**
- Agua Fria Village/BLAZE 7,310 LBS

**MONETARY DONATIONS**

**LEVEL 1 (1-49 HOMES)**
- 800 East HOA 13,000 LBS

**LEVEL 2 (50-100 HOMES)**
- Las Lomas 20,500 LBS

**LEVEL 3 (101-400 HOMES)**
- Sierra Del Norte 14,700

**LEVEL 4 (400-700 HOMES)**
- Arroyo Chamisa 1,470

**BANKS**
- Washington Federal 158 LBS

**BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION FOOD & MONETARY DONATIONS**
- Pak Mail 10,743 LBS

**FOOD DONATIONS**
- Fraternal Order of Police 866 LBS

**MONETARY DONATIONS**
- Knights of Columbus 2,500 LBS

**COMPETITIONS**
- Santa Fe County 664 LBS
- FedEx Ground 2,916 LBS

**GROCERY STORES**
- Market Street 939 LBS

**OUTSIDE SANTA FE COUNTY**
- Vecinos de Pedernal 5,357 LBS

**SCHOOLS**
- New Mexico School for the Arts 821 LBS

**SENIOR COMMUNITY FOOD & MONETARY DONATIONS**
- Pacifica Senior Living 803 LBS

**FOOD DONATIONS**
- Brookdale Santa Fe 180 LBS

Mark your calendars!

The ninth annual Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive will be on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020.

The Food Depot is determined to continue to increase impact again in 2020, but we can only do it with your help! There’s more suggestions on ways to help at thefooddepot.org.
It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child; certainly, it takes a village to address childhood hunger.

For several years, The Food Depot has partnered with Communities in Schools to create school-based pantries that serve the most vulnerable members of our community – children.

This year, The Food Depot has expanded the school-based pantries as part of its Food 4 Kids program. Every week, Communities in Schools site-coordinators order and receive produce, nonperishable staples such as pasta and cereal, as well as perishable items such as milk and eggs.

Each school site holds a pantry distribution for children and their families weekly, as well as making grocery bags available as needed. Studies show that hunger affects a child’s ability to learn, as well as his/her socio-behavioral health.

The Food 4 Kids school-based pantry supports entire families, ensuring that children’s nutritional needs are met.

Nutritious Food is Needed

For families struggling to make ends meet, food insecurity is often a reality. Inadequate income can result in working adults making difficult choices – rent or food? In these situations, access to nutritious food can be challenging on many levels.

The Food Depot’s Food 4 Kids Mobile Market works to remove one barrier to food access by offering food distributions close to school dismissal time on Fridays and mid-day on Saturdays.

The mobile markets are located in neighborhoods with a high density of struggling families, at times when those families are more likely to be able to pick up food. To date, four Food 4 Kids Mobile Markets have been held. At each distribution, over 65 grocery bags including produce, perishable foods, and staple items have been handed out.

An estimated 300 people are being served by the program every other week.

By offering food at times when families aren’t at work, close to their homes, The Food Depot is able to provide food to families who can’t access other pantry distributions.

Food 4 Kids School-Based Pantry Locations

- Aspen Community Magnet School
- Capital High School
- Cesar Chavez Public Charter School
- El Camino Real Academy
- Nava Elementary School
- Milagro Middle School
- Nina Otero Community School
- Ortiz Middle School
- Ramirez Thomas Elementary School
- Salazar Elementary School
- Sweeney Elementary School
- Pojoaque Schools

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The Food Depot volunteers Jacqueline Lovell and Lori Gibson pose for a photo at a recent Santa Fe Farmers Market. The Food Depot has a table during the summer markets where attendees can donate produce.

Summer Farmers Market Comes to a Close

Thanks to a New Program, Produce Donations Increase

A new incentive program, made possible by volunteer Lori Gibson, Kei & Molly Textiles, and the Farmer’s Market Gift Shop, helped drive fresh produce donations at this summer’s Farmers Market at the Santa Fe Railyards.

After purchasing $20 of produce from any vendor and donating it to The Food Depot, patrons received a dish towel with a unique local design.

This season’s market brought in 2,094 pounds of produce! Thank you to all who participated.
Meet the Santa Fe Amateur Radio Emergency Service (SFARES) an organized collective of amateur radio operators working behind the scenes to develop and preserve communications pathways for our community in the event of a disaster.

A registered nonprofit organization, SFARES’ mission is to “augment and facilitate emergency communications and related services and activities for Santa Fe City and County Emergency Management.”

In disasters, communication networks are paramount, and SFARES is committed to providing a reliable communication network.

SFARES is comprised of 33 amateur radio operators with significant experience working to establish and maintain a deep infrastructure with the capacity to operate at the highest levels of communication. These critically needed, skilled individuals have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

As The Food Depot planned Phase II of its warehouse expansion in 2017, a unique partnership emerged with SFARES. Tall metal buildings are particularly useful in the amateur radio world, especially when paired with radio towers. Visit The Food Depot, and you will find that SFARES successfully established the food bank warehouse as “one of the four central sites for the SFARES emergency communications system. The Food Depot serves as a disaster response organization already, providing food and water to persons who have been evacuated and to first responders in the event of a disaster. Partnering with SFARES was a natural expansion of The Food Depot’s role in disaster response.

Thanks to the tireless work of SFARES, Santa Fe and The Food Depot are prepared to respond in the event of a disaster.

Additional Ways to Support The Food Depot

Please consider utilizing these ways to support The Food Depot in coming months:

Amazon Smile
When you shop with Amazon, make sure to go to smile.amazon.com first. By choosing The Food Depot as your charity, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of eligible purchases.

Facebook Fundraisers
Individual fundraisers through your Facebook account can be a very simple and easy way to support The Food Depot with your friends and family. Donations are sent directly to The Food Depot from Facebook.

Smith’s Inspiring Donations
Go to smithsfoodanddrug.com and select The Food Depot as your charity for your Smith’s Plus Card. A percentage of eligible purchases will be donated directly to The Food Depot. This will not affect your points earned.

Another 4-Star Rating

The Food Depot is proud to have earned another Charity Navigator 4-star rating — the highest rating possible.

This is the 12th consecutive 4-star rating, something only 1 percent of nonprofits evaluated earn. “Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that The Food Depot exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work,” Michael Thatcher President and CEO of Charity Navigator, recently wrote in a letter. To learn more about the evaluation process, go to charitynavigator.org.
Souper Bowl 2020

Soups that Give Back

The Food Depot is proud to present the 26th Souper Bowl on Feb. 1, 2020. We are honored to host such a highly anticipated community event.

Bring a big appetite to sample 25 unique culinary creations from area chefs.

Awards in this friendly competition are completely decided by your vote. Chefs will compete for the title "Best Of" in the following categories: Seafood, Vegetarian, Savory and Cream, in addition to Best Overall Soup.

- **VIP Tickets:**
  Purchase a VIP ticket for 11 a.m. access **an hour before the general public.** A limited number of tickets will be sold at this level, $75 adult, $25 children 6 to 12 years old.

- **Buy Now:**
  Tickets go on sale Dec. 2 until Jan. 2, 2020, adult tickets are $30, $5 for children ages 6 to 12 years, children ages 5 years and younger are free.

Tickets are only available for purchase through the website at thefooddepot.org.

Tickets purchased Jan. 3 through Jan. 30 are $35 for adults and $10 for children 6- to 12-years-old.

Tickets purchased the day of the event are $45, plus you’ll have to wait in line at the Santa Fe Convention Center — **so grab your tickets early!** The event begins promptly at noon. Lines form early to get the limited seats available.

**The funds raised from Souper Bowl 25 allowed The Food Depot to provide approximately 208,000 meals for Northern New Mexicans in need.**

- **Information:**
  There is no coat check or storage at Souper Bowl. It’s best to leave your coats in the car and only bring what you need for the Souper Bowl inside to the convention center.

Park in the Santa Fe Convention Center Parking Garage at 119 S. Federal Place for easy access and complimentary parking for the Souper Bowl.

This is a (friendly) competition. It’s not uncommon to see veteran attendees with notepads, small trays (available for purchase for $5) and people comparing notes on their favorite soups.

It’s not necessary to stay until the end of the event, but it is encouraged, and winners are announced and celebrated at the conclusion of Souper Bowl.

Betsy Ross feeds her 2-year-old daughter, Adyson, soup at The food Depot’s 25th annual Souper bowl on Saturday, February 2, 2019. Photo courtesy of: Jane Phillips

Souper Bowl attendees must make the difficult decision of voting on their favorite soups. Photo courtesy of: Jane Phillips
Returning Employee Leads New Program

Welcome back, Chris!

The Food Depot is pleased to announce that Chris Blumenstein has returned to the employee fold, and is heading up our exciting new Resource Navigation program.

Many of you will remember Chris as The Food Depot’s Volunteer Coordinator in 2016 and 2017. Prior to that Chris worked for a number of years in the Department of Veterans Affairs, doing trauma therapy, addictions counseling and homelessness case management. He holds a master’s degree in social work from Boise State University.

So, what exactly is The Food Depot’s new Resource Navigation program?

In a nutshell, my job is to connect people to resources. Maybe I meet someone at a food distribution, and he or she has unstable housing or is homeless. Or is struggling with addiction, or domestic violence, or any of a whole range of challenges.

My job is to offer to connect that individual to the relevant resources in our community. Or maybe I get a referral from another agency in town. In that instance my job is to contact the resident in need and ensure she or he is accessing all available food resources, including SNAP (formerly Food Stamps). Helping people apply for SNAP will be an extremely important part of my job.

How did this program come about?

It’s part of a new city-funded public-health initiative, a best-practice model commonly referred to as an “any door” program. What research shows, and common sense tells us, is that an individual or family experiencing need or risk in one part of life often experiences that in multiple areas, but may not know how to access resources. A program like this is designed to address that issue: walk through any helping door in town, and connect to the full range of resources the community has to offer.

Is there anything else people should know about the program?

Because this position is tied to a City of Santa Fe grant, and because my hours are part-time, my priority will be assisting city residents.

However, I will always try to help anyone who contacts me as best I can. And lastly, I think it’s important to emphasize that enrollment in the Resource Navigation program is always entirely optional, and will not impact in any way how The Food Depot or its partner agencies distributes food. The program is an offering and an opportunity, never an obstacle.

How can newsletter readers help?

First and foremost, some people reading this newsletter will be experiencing struggles in their own lives, or a family member will be. Please contact me; it’s what the program exists for.

Other readers won’t be experiencing these kinds of challenges in their lives presently, but will know someone who is, or will want to be prepared should an opportunity to help arise. To those folks, please contact me for copies of my business card and program brochure, or simply make a note of my contact information to share with an individual in need.

Chris can be reached at (505) 470-2236 or navigator@thefooddepot.org.

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

These partners have a variety of infrastructure needs and when possible, The Food Depot works to expand their capacity because it benefits the entire food banking network.

The Food Depot accepts working computer equipment, kitchen appliances/supplies and office equipment and distributes them to partner agencies in need. For more information, contact Mona at mruark@thefooddepot.org.
Welcome, Melissa Petty
Western Community Outreach Coordinator

My background includes over fifteen years in wholesale buying and product development in the apparel and optical industries. Through my work, I had the opportunity to travel to beautiful and exotic parts of the world from Europe to the Far East for sourcing product and attending industry trade shows. I feel fortunate to have been able to spend time in other cultures around the world as it allows for personal growth and development in compassion and understanding for others.

Born and raised in Texas, I felt ready for a huge quality of life change. I packed up and moved from the big city to a much simpler life in Taos. I had traveled to Taos many times and knew I always wanted to live in this magical part of Northern New Mexico. When I first moved to Taos, I worked in sales and marketing for several years before making a change into the healthcare field. Working in healthcare eventually lead me to become a Licensed Massage Therapist, which I still practice. I am passionate about helping others in facilitating their healing and providing a path to their overall health and wellness.

When the opportunity became available for a western community outreach coordinator for The Food Depot, I knew it would be a great fit to utilize my marketing skills as well as help promote health and well-being by doing what I can to get food to the people in my community who are in need. I started with The Food Depot in September of this year and I am thoroughly enjoying the chance to work with our partner agencies and seeing the lives they make better with their hard work and dedication to minimizing food insecurity in their communities.

When I’m not working, I’ll be practicing yoga, going for a hike on a trail, skiing, snowshoeing or catering to the needs of my Chihuahua, Ramona, who rules the house!

Welcome, Gill!
Gill Perea-Martinez
Eastern Community Outreach Coordinator

Gill Perea-Martinez joined The Food Depot on Sept. 11, filling the new eastern community outreach coordinator position.

A native of Las Vegas, (New Mexico) Gill had served in several positions with the Las Vegas City Schools. She has been married to her high school sweetheart Cayetano for 20 years and they have two sons, Michael and Evan. They may be adopting a puppy in the near future, but for now, Misty the cat shares their home.

Gill believes the position and the work of The Food Depot is important to the area. “In essence, this position affords me the opportunity to be an extension of the offering hand, helping those who are in need of a hand up,” Gill said in a recent email.

Gill is looking forward to making a positive difference in our communities. Outside of work, she enjoys everything about being a mom. Welcome, Gill!

Get to Know...

Welcome, Ashlynn!
Ashlynn Montoya
Inventory Control Coordinator

Ashlynn Montoya joined The Food Depot staff in August in the new inventory control coordinator position.

A Santa Fe native, Ashlynn Montoya joined The Food Depot in September of this year and is thoroughly enjoying the chance to work with our partner agencies and see the lives they make better with their hard work and dedication to minimizing food insecurity in their communities.

Ashlynn’s day involves pulling partner agency orders, inventory quality control and various other tasks in the warehouse. Before coming to The Food Depot, she was a part of the management team at Walmart.

From a large extended family, Ashlynn has two sisters and one brother, She’s a 2015 Santa Fe High School graduate. Outside of work, she really enjoys being outside and in nature. She loves spending time with her dog, cat and guinea pig.
Legacy Giving

Remembering Nathaniel Pavitt, son of Jim and Carolyn Pavitt

My son, Nathaniel Pavitt, left this good earth far too early – two years ago. His loss, near unbearable to us then, remains just as unbearable today. There is an emptiness in the hearts of all of us who loved/love Nathaniel and that haunts us all every day. That is the enormous sadness around Nathaniel’s passing. We miss him so very much. But there is also happiness despite the sadness. Memories are sustaining and the memories of this remarkable man lift us all.

Let me note a bit more about Nathaniel.

He was a remarkable son, sibling… human being. He was a gentle soul and a wonderful person. He loved music, his guitar, his many dogs and he loved life.

But life was hard on Nathaniel. When he was 16 years old, he was badly injured in a terrible car accident. The years after the accident were hard. He was in a wheelchair from the date of the accident. He left this good earth at age 39.

His courage, great medicine, and the love of family were all constants in his life. The nature of the injuries – spinal cord injury and internal head injury – were devastating. Despite all his effort and the constant support of family and friends, he passed on the 28th of October 2017.

He is missed beyond words. He was special. In my old business (national security) I knew a remarkable group of extraordinarily courageous men and women. I have not known anyone with the courage my son manifested day after day, year after year.

Nathaniel was long confined to his chair and his Mom’s house. His best friend, his dog, and his greatest daily support came from his Mom. His favorite day – Christmas! He loved Christmas for all the right reasons, and he loved the days before for a specific reason – finding ways to give to those he loved and those in need.

Giving was what Nathaniel loved to do more than anything else.

The extraordinary gift that the Reaud Foundation gave to The Food Depot last year was given in honor of Nathaniel. It was a special act of giving. Nathaniel would love what was done in his name. I believe he knows.

I cannot bring him back and his loss is and will remain devastating. Like all parents who have lost a child, I talk to Nathaniel every day. There is comfort in that. His pain and suffering have ended. He is in a far better place. Our memories of him are sustaining.

A Gift to Remember

Losing a friend or family member is never easy. There are times when creating a legacy gift can offer a positive outlet for acknowledging a special person. Consider leaving a legacy gift to remember a friend or loved one.

Contact Jill Dixon, director of development to discuss options for leaving a legacy gift at jdixon@thefooddepot.org.
End of Year Thanks

The Food Depot has grown a lot this year in many ways. With the revamp of the Food 4 Kids program, the new partnership of Kids Kitchen and adding to new staff to meet the need in Northern New Mexico, it’s been a busy year!

If you’ve joined as a volunteer – thank you! If you’ve given a can of food or money at an area food drive – thank you! If you’ve told a friend about the issues of poverty and hunger – thank you!

We simply could not do everything we do without your support. Every action in the food banking system matters to the big picture. We are ready to continue the work moving forward, and we hope you’ll continue to support The Food Depot. Our staff wish you and your family the very best in 2020!

Thank you for spending time with us!

St. Michael’s High School Volleyball Team

The St. Michael’s High School Volleyball Team partnered with The Food Depot on a special project. Last month, these athletes picked an incredible 2,739 pounds of apples from a historic orchard that otherwise would have gone unharvested.

Bank of New Hampshire

Volunteers from the Bank of New Hampshire traveled all the way from the East Coast to volunteer at The Food Depot.

Cranksgiving

The 11th annual Cranksgiving Santa Fe was hosted by Back Road Pizza on Nov. 16.

Cranksgiving is part bicycle race, part food drive, and a lot of fun! Riders of all ages completed a scavenger hunt at different stores in the Santa Fe area, picking up various holiday dinner items to benefit The Food Depot. There were different challenges to earn points in this friendly competition.

This year’s winners were:

- **Fastest Woman** - Kristen Peterson (67.03 min)
- **Fastest Man** - Brooklyn (47 min)
- **Fastest Team** - BLM (minus 7.7 min)
- **Best Costume** - Team ’Under the Sea’
- **Fastest Out of Towner** - Team Bueno (30 min)
- **Most Generous** - Santa Fe Aquatic Club (585 lbs)
- **Most Stores** - BLM (12 stores)
- **Youngest Rider** - Oliver, Age 5 (rode 9 miles)

Attend The Food Depot's Workshop

The Food Depot’s educational workshop, “Making Ends Meet: When Working Isn’t Enough” is a unique look at the everyday challenges of lower income households.

The 90-minute workshop is presented at The Food Depot different times during the month, and off-site by request. Go to thefooddepot.org/making_ends_meet for the latest dates.

RSVP is required and with at least 72 hours notice. Contact Dot at dgreene@thefooddepot.org to reserve your spot or coordinate a presentation for your group.
Join us for the 26th annual Souper Bowl
Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020

Tickets go on sale Dec. 2!