2019 ANNUAL REPORT
HUNGER IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK...

Right now, many of our neighbors are an illness, an accident, or an unexpected repair away from needing food assistance.

1 in 3 children in our community experiences hunger

The Food Depot is ending hunger in Northern New Mexico by providing food to a network of over 145 partner nonprofit agencies throughout nine counties. Partner agencies such as food pantries, meal programs, homeless shelters, youth programs, and senior centers distribute food received from The Food Depot to people who are experiencing hunger.

In 2019, The Food Depot distributed more than 5.3 million meals—excluding 2.5 million pounds of produce—to the most vulnerable members of our community. Children. Working families. Seniors. Someone you know is experiencing hunger right now.

INVESTMENT

$1 provides 4 meals

94 cents of every dollar goes directly towards providing meals to people in need

IMPACT

More than 459,195 meals per month, 34,500 people per quarter, 6,324,414 pounds of food, enough for 5,270,345 meals!

DIFFICULT CHOICES

Faces of Hunger in New Mexico 2017
A study conducted by the New Mexico Association of Food Banks and Feeding America

Of the people seeking emergency food assistance:

- 30% of recipients are children
- 21% of those we help are seniors
- 16% are grandparents raising grandchildren
- 89% of hungry households have an annual income of less than $20,000 annually, which equals $384 per week
- 61% report choosing between paying utilities or buying food
- 53% of hungry households include at least one person who has worked in the past 12 months. Of households with no one able to work:
  - 87% are disabled, retired, in poor health, or act as a caretaker of another person
  - 59% have chosen between paying for medicine or medical care or buying food at least once in past 12 months

Hunger remains a constant in the lives of many New Mexicans. Every day, tens of thousands of people struggle with having enough food to eat. They turn to emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters to help them feed their families. The Food Depot makes sure that those organizations have food to give.
COMMUNITY IN ACTION
SERVING NORTHERN NEW MEXICO’S NEEDS

HOW DOES THE FOOD DEPOT SERVE THE COMMUNITY?

• Each month, The Food Depot, Northern New Mexico’s food bank distributes over 527,000 pounds of food, more than 439,000 meals through its partner agencies.

• Who’s hungry? They are the working adults trying to decide whether they should pay their heating bill or buy groceries with their meager wages. They are the seniors struggling to make ends meet on a small monthly stipend. They are those suffering from domestic abuse. They are men and women living without shelter. They are our community’s children.

• The Food Depot hunger network is composed of over a 145 partner agencies including emergency food pantries, hot meal programs, homeless shelters, youth programs, group homes, senior centers, children's homes, day care centers, and shelters.

• Food banks prevent food waste by rescuing slightly damaged goods, products produced in excess, and items nearing their sell date.

• The Food Depot provides relief to victims of natural disasters through local disaster relief agencies. In 2000, the food bank joined local efforts to aid the victims of the Cerro Grande fires by providing 1,361,467 pounds of food.

• The Food Depot is a partner distribution organization of Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks throughout the nation, serving all 50 states. The Food Depot is one of five food banks in the New Mexico Association of Food Banks.

THE FOOD DEPOT’S MISSION STATEMENT
The Food Depot fosters healthy communities by engaging a network of partners and developing solutions to create a hunger-free New Mexico.

THE FOOD DEPOT’S VISION STATEMENT
Healthy, hunger-free communities in Northern New Mexico

Local and national product donors support The Food Depot's efforts to end hunger. These donors include food manufacturers and distributors, grocery stores, restaurants, hotels, produce vendors, farms and other food service establishments.

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Food Banking
How It Works

WHERE THE FOOD COMES FROM

The Food Depot acquires food and related donations from over 100 local product donors including grocery stores, bakeries, restaurants, farms, and small manufacturers and distributors. Much of this food would go into landfills if not for The Food Depot. The food bank continues to engage the local community by offering opportunities to conduct food drives throughout the year. Because the quantity and nature of donations fluctuates, The Food Depot also utilizes funds to purchase foods in bulk when economical opportunities arise.

The Food Depot goes outside the community to acquire food to provide the most basic of needs for those who cannot provide for themselves. The food bank’s affiliation with Feeding America will continue to provide food donations from outside the state to support the local effort to end hunger. The food bank’s participation in the New Mexico Association of Food Banks’ Produce Initiative offers fresh, nutritious produce to the hungry through The Food Depot’s hunger-relief network. The Food Depot also partners with the New Mexico Human Services Department to distribute commodity foods provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Food Depot is generously supported financially by a variety of sources. Financial contributions are critical, as they enable The Food Depot to purchase foods in bulk and acquire fresh produce. The Food Depot is able to stretch every donated dollar to provide four meals!

Current Product Donors

Albertsons Stores
Big Lots
Bode’s General Store
El Rancho de Las Golondrinas
Frogurt
The Fruit Basket
Goodwill Industries
La Montañita Co-op
Los Alamos Co-op Market
Olive Garden
Panera Bread
Pepsi Beverages Company
Philmont Scout Ranch
Rancho de Santa Fe
Ruby K’s
Sage Bakehouse
Sal’s Club
Smith’s Food and Drug Stores
Sprouts Farmers Markets
Starbucks
Target
Trader Joe’s
Tribes Coffee House
Walmart Stores
Whole Foods Market
Who’s Donuts

Monetary Donations Come From

Individuals 46%
Foundations 20%
Government Support 11%
Businesses 4%
Other 19%
The Food Depot maintains partnerships with over 145 nonprofit agencies throughout a nine county service area. These agencies include meal programs, food pantries, youth programs, senior centers, and shelters for the homeless and battered families. A partnership with The Food Depot enables each of these agencies to focus their resources on their primary mission rather than on the acquisition of food. The Food Depot provides an offerings list to each agency on a weekly basis and then prepares each agency’s food order for delivery or pick up. Deliveries are always offered free of charge. This partnership enables The Food Depot to direct food donations to the populations who are in need and alleviates the burden of providing food from nonprofit agencies whose resources are already stretched thin. Financial support of The Food Depot can also be considered support of over 145 additional nonprofit agencies that serve the community.

AGENCY RELATIONS COUNCILS (ARCs)

One of the key action steps for The Food Depot is to develop the capacity of its partner agencies. The Food Depot is developing regional councils of partner agencies to enhance collaboration between all entities providing services. The Food Depot serves as a resource to partner agencies as they increase their marketing and fundraising efforts and food acquisition within their own communities. ARCs include representation from partner agencies, elected officials, and other persons of influence from within the community. As each of these entities becomes better informed about the realities of hunger in their community, a sense of ownership and urgency develops to expand capacity and services to address the need.

Agency Relations Councils are intended to strengthen agencies and build capacity through a collaborative, community driven effort toward ending hunger in Northern New Mexico.

“I feel the ARC has had its biggest impact by bringing together members of organizations that would have otherwise operated independently. Now we are more focused on the goals of the community and communicate as a whole our concerns for the community. This enables us to have a more complete understanding of what we do separately as well as what we are able to do as one entity, the ARC.”

– Carmen Gress, Salvation Army–Las Vegas
TESTIMONIALS

“It gives me great satisfaction to be a part of a team that works so hard to help feed so many people in a large part of our state. I hope that donations of food and money to The Food Depot continue to grow as people become aware of this great organization.” - Mary Jo Read

“My volunteer work at the warehouse, sorting donations, bagging bread, helping with the Food for Pets program, is extremely rewarding. I feel lucky to be part of this effort.” - Lolina Alvarez

“Volunteering at The Food Depot is a simple and fun way to help fight hunger in our area. The “work” is varied and interesting. You get to know other community members while learning about food issues here.” - Kia Mudge

“As a 6 year volunteer at The Food Depot, I’ve had the opportunity to observe its mission, staff and outreach at great length. Every facet of this organization is well-managed and lovingly executed. They have made their volunteers feel welcomes and appreciated. I sincerely can say that I’ve enjoyed each week that I’ve been privileged to be affiliated with The Food Depot.” - Cheryl Brown

“The Food Depot provides one of the most important functions in New Mexico which is to distribute food to rural communities, low income schools and shelters around Northern New Mexico where we have very high levels of food insecurity. I enjoyed my time volunteering for this excellent organization.” - Eslee Kessler

STATISTICS ABOUT VOLUNTEERS

• In 2019, volunteers provided over 27,000 hours or an estimated $686,000 of donated labor, augmenting staff work and stretching every dollar to feed more people in need.

• Volunteers make possible large special events such as the Souper Bowl and Canstruction, and represent the food bank at community events throughout the year.

• In any given month, The Food Depot has more than 150 regular, weekly volunteers, over a dozen court-appointed community service volunteers and over 20 groups providing an average of nearly 2,250 work hours.

• The recurring volunteer at the Food Depot logs an average of 12 hours per month.

• The Food Depot’s youngest volunteers are only 3 years old, while our oldest volunteers are nearing 90!

TYPES OF VOLUNTEER WORK

Sorting donated food
Repackaging bread and bulk dry goods
Preparing meals for children’s feeding programs
Light maintenance and organization of the warehouse
Reception/light office duties and filing
Packing Mobile Food Pantry bags
Repacking pet food for the Food 4 Pets program
Meal delivery for Lunch Box Express
Community advocacy
Special events

HOW VOLUNTEERS MAKE AN IMPACT

Example #1—Pinto Beans: The Food Depot purchases food in bulk when a cost-effective opportunity arises. Often, this means that volunteers must repackage large quantities of an item into smaller, family-sized portions. Volunteer power makes it possible to get TWICE as many beans for the same dollar spent because volunteers are doing the work to package them. Volunteers make every donation dollar stretch to provide four meals to people in need!

Example #2—Produce: The Food Depot receives produce donations every day from local grocery stores and other donors. To maximize donations, product donors are encouraged to donate everything—The Food Depot offers to sort donations to keep the burden of work off of the donor. Volunteers at The Food Depot take the time to separate the good from the bad, increasing the likelihood that valuable produce will end up in the hands of a person in need.
SOLUTION

Child hunger is a constant reality for many New Mexican children with no single solution. Research shows a child not getting the nourishment they need can have effects lasting much longer than a missed meal.

While simultaneously working towards long-term solutions, The Food Depot works actively to ensure that no child goes hungry. Food 4 Kids is designed to provide children and their families with access to nutritious meals and grocery items.

**Food 4 Kids utilizes six approaches to food distribution.** This is done with the intention of reaching children and families where they are at — the program seeks to reduce the burden on families. By bringing food into schools and locations near children’s home communities, access to services is improved. In making the food available to whole families, the program becomes more inclusive.

**PROBLEM**

- 1 in 3 children in New Mexico experiences hunger
- 30% of NM children live in poverty, the worst rate in the nation
- More than 30% of NM children live in a household where no parent has secure income
- 39% of NM children live in single parent homes

**IMPACT**

In 2019, Food 4 Kids provided 241,258 meals to children experiencing hunger.

**INVESTMENT**

Your support of The Food Depot’s Food 4 Kids program means more meals to children.

**THE NEW FACE OF FOOD 4 KIDS**

Food 4 Kids will now include several approaches intended to specifically fill food gaps:

- Afterschool meals (formerly Square Meals)
- Summer meals (formerly Lunch Box Express)
- School-based pantries
- School Area Mobile Markets
- Nurse boxes
- Food bags

Learn more about these approaches at thefooddepot.org/program-food-4-kids.

*Photos by Arnold Hershman and Dick Goldsmith*
PROBLEM

Many families report cutting back on basics such as food, utilities or child care in order to purchase diapers for their children. Families report leaving their children in soiled diapers for a longer period of time than they otherwise would have. Some families even resort to cleaning out or drying soiled diapers and reusing them in order to meet their diaper needs. Most Americans who have not faced this struggle do not know the problem exists. Federal benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) cannot be spent on diapers. Disposable diapers are required to enroll a child in daycare, which presents an obstacle to low-income families that need childcare in order to work or attend school.

SOLUTION

The Diaper Depot is an initiative of The Food Depot. The Food Depot recognizes that limited access to diapers poses serious health risks and economic consequences for babies and families. For this reason, The Food Depot specifically collects disposable diapers and infant supplies to distribute to families via a network of partner agencies. The Diaper Depot exists to help provide a supplemental supply of disposable diapers to families in need. These diapers make it possible for struggling families to keep a child in a daycare setting so parents can work or attend school.

FACTS

- 1 in 3 families in America struggle to afford diapers for their children
- Diaper need is a silent crisis in the United States
- Diapers are a basic need for children, as essential to their health and well being as food and shelter
- Families unable to afford diapers are forced to choose between a range of undesirable alternatives that can severely impact the health and well being of both their child and their household

IMPACT

The Diaper Depot provides 21,206 diapers per month to 14 partner agencies in Santa Fe, San Miguel and Taos counties.

INVESTMENT

$50 provides a supplemental supply of diapers for a baby for a year

ANGLER’S STORY...

Angel, a 22-year-old in Santa Fe, is making every effort to continue to finish her GED, and get a full-time job to support herself and Julian, her 8-month-old son. Angel has support through her family and local organizations including Youth Shelters and the United Way of Santa Fe County. She also receives assistance through WIC, among other programs. She carefully plans her days and utilizes public transportation to get to her internship, appointments and school. The free diapers through the Diaper Depot ensures that she can take Julian to daycare so she can attend classes and study for her GED test. “I feel like I have to have two sets of everything,” Angel says about having baby supplies for herself and Julian’s caregiver. “The diapers are so helpful. It’s stress relieving to know that I can get diapers in an emergency.” Diapers may come in small packages, but they make a big impact on families such as Angel’s.
FACES OF HUNGER
HUNGER IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

FULL-TIME MOM AT 24.
FAILED MARRIAGE AT 32.
HUNGRY NOW.

Recently divorced, Amelia can’t make enough waiting tables at the local restaurant to cover her rent and utilities and buy food for herself and her children. She desperately needs the additional help provided by The Food Depot and her local food pantry to feed her family.

HOMEOWNER AT 50.
FORECLOSURE AT 60.
HUNGRY NOW.

At 50, Henry had a good job in a medical office, and although he certainly wasn’t rich, he could cover expenses for himself and his aging mother. Five years later, illness struck and Henry was hospitalized. Between the loss of his job during this medical crisis and mounting medical expenses, Henry fell behind on his mortgage and lost his home. In the last two years, his health has improved. Henry continues to care for his mother, but his financial situation is challenging. It’s difficult for him to keep enough food in the house and meet the medical needs of both himself and his mother. Henry is participating in AARP’s Back To Work 50+ program in an attempt to secure a new job. In the meantime, until he can once again support his family on his own, The Food Depot is providing a critical safety net for Henry and his mother.

MOTHER OF FIVE AT 40.
WIDOWED AT 43.
HUNGRY NOW.

After her husband died, Miriam wasn’t sure where to turn. She’d never worked outside the home and had five children, ages 2 to 19. Her 9-year-old suffers from diabetes and requires regular trips to Albuquerque for treatment. Miriam was already having a hard time paying her rent and utilities and buying food for her children. When her water pipes burst during the winter, she almost reached the breaking point. She received help with that expense, but things are still extremely tight. Because of her lack of work experience and the age of her young children, it’s difficult for her to work. Without the food assistance she receives from The Food Depot and her local food pantry, she and her children couldn’t make it.
PROBLEM
Rural Northern New Mexico has a high number of “food deserts,” or areas where there is limited access to full-service grocery stores that offer the fresh produce and affordable foods needed to maintain a healthy diet.

SOLUTION
The Mobile Food Pantry program seeks to eliminate hunger in rural, isolated communities throughout Northern New Mexico. This program provides an avenue by which nutritious food can be provided free of charge to families and individuals in need. The provision of this much needed food improves the health and life circumstances of the most vulnerable people of rural Northern New Mexico.

The Mobile Food Pantry operates like a Bookmobile—The Food Depot, with the help of community volunteers, distributes food directly from the delivery truck with no need for long-term storage. This service reaches communities that do not have the resources to set up their own food pantries.

IMPACT
In 2019, The Mobile Food Pantry served 5,863 people per month.

ROSIE’S STORY...
Rosie has been alone since her husband died ten years ago, struggling to survive on a fixed income of less than $14,000 a year. As her health deteriorates, her medical expenses make it harder to get by. Rosie receives benefits from the federal SNAP program, but even with that help, she often doesn’t know where her next meal is coming from.

In rural Colfax County, where Rosie lives, affordable, nutritious food is hard to find. Rosie often has to choose between paying for her medication and having food to eat. The Mobile Food Pantry run by The Food Depot makes all the difference for Rosie. It delivers food to Colfax County once a month, providing the extra supplies that make it possible for Rosie to eat until her Social Security check arrives.

INVESTMENT
$15 sponsors one person for a month

PROBLEM
Low-income Northern New Mexicans are faced with difficult decisions every day—the choice between food and heat, food and rent, food and medical care. For many, there is another very real challenge—food for their pets—because pets are also a part of the family. All too often when ends don’t meet, a struggling family or individual will share a meager food supply with a companion animal. The Food Depot looks at the full picture of the economic circumstances affecting struggling families in Northern New Mexico.

IMPACT
The Food 4 Pets program served an average of 2,297 companion animals and their families per month.

SOLUTION
In the Food 4 Pets program, pet food is distributed monthly in conjunction with The Food Depot’s Mobile Food Pantry program. Volunteers from each of the rural communities work to spread the word to people in need, and on an established day each month, The Food Depot’s truck arrives with a delivery of non-perishable staple foods and fresh fruits and vegetables. Not far behind, The Food Depot’s Food 4 Pets truck arrives with a supplemental supply of pet food. The volunteers prepare the people and pet food for distribution, and handle the distribution itself. As volunteers get to know the people and families seeking assistance, they provide information about free and low-cost spay/neuter services, and vaccination clinics.

A GRANDMOTHER’S LOVE...
Jorge and Elena are both in their 70’s living on a limited fixed income in the small village of Truchas. When they unexpectedly became guardians for their granddaughters, Ana and Carina, plus the girls’ beloved two dogs, the grandparents weren’t sure how they could manage. The girls bring joy to their lives, but money is tight, and Jorge and Elena can hardly afford the extra groceries they need, much less dog food. So far, the expanded family—pets included—has barely gotten by sharing the extra “people food” provided by The Food Depot’s Mobile Food Pantry. But with the addition of Food 4 Pets, when the Mobile Pantry arrives, Jorge and Elena can pick up both groceries for themselves and the girls, and pet food for the dogs.
The Food Depot
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Sarah Carter, Volunteer Manager

Key Information

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The Food Depot is a registered, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization.