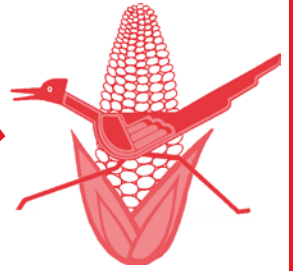
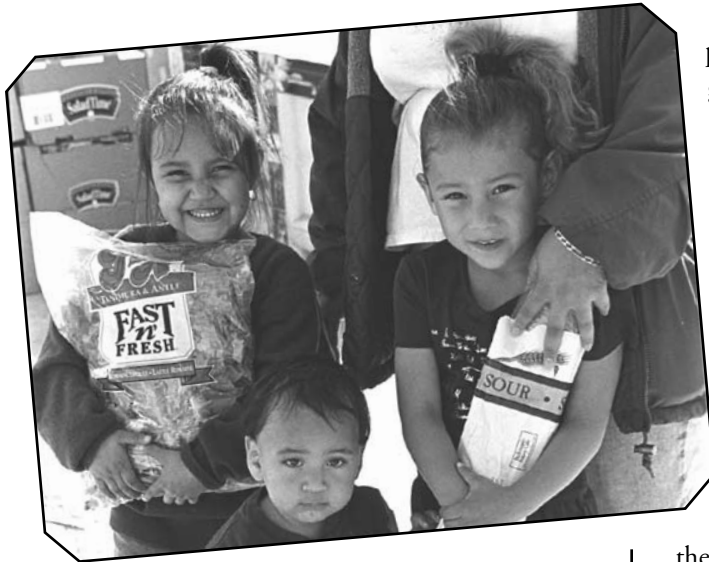


ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP



Roadrunner Food Bank is dedicated to ending hunger in New Mexico.

Gas & Food Increases Stretch Working Families Food Budgets



Jana and Bob, both Native Americans, have three young children ages four months to seven years old. Also living with them are Jana's disabled mother and her two siblings, ages 16 and 10. Bob currently works two jobs, and is looking for a third to support the household of 10. Jana watches her children and her siblings. Jana and Bob regularly visit Roadrunner Food Bank's partner agency, the *Albuquerque Indian Center* which Jana says "has provided many resources such as food and hygiene boxes that help our family out a great deal. We rely on the monthly food commodities. The price of gas has skyrocketed and has affected our family. It is necessary for us to be cautious on extra spending and travel."

Jana and her family are not alone. Charlotte Abeyta, the Office Manager of the *Alamo Navajo Community School*, says that her family doesn't buy the same foods as in the past and they go shopping less often. The increase in gas and food prices is also affecting their food budget. The problem for Charlotte and the families in Alamo is that their nearest food and gas stores are 30 miles away in Magdalena. Their nearest supermarket is 60 miles away in Socorro.

Many working families, young and old, urban and rural, are experiencing serious hardships. They

have no wiggle room in their budgets for increased gas and food prices. They search the supermarket aisles for bargains and cheap food. Fresh produce and meat are luxuries. Steve Mills, Project Director at the *Alamo Navajo School*, says families in their community are making decisions on *price versus quality*. Many are feeling hopeless, because the only food they can afford is junk food. Marissa Ramos of the *Albuquerque Indian Center* says they see a lot of parents like Jana and Bob who are working two jobs just to keep a roof over their children's heads and still come regularly for food boxes.

Roadrunner Food Bank and partner agencies are also experiencing the increase in gas prices. Run by volunteers, our agencies find themselves in the same situation as their clients. They can't afford the gas to pick up the food from us. As a result they are distributing less food less often. Recently two agencies closed because they couldn't afford to keep distributing food.

Roadrunner Food Bank's gasoline bill exceeds \$5000 monthly for our five trucks to pick up and deliver food. Yet thanks to you, along with our generous community, we can continue collecting, purchasing and distributing 50,000 pounds of food every day. Thanks to your help we make sure Jana, Bob and others like them, have enough food for their children. Next time you search your supermarket for food bargains keep Jana, Bob, Charlotte and thousands of New Mexican families in mind.

AUGUST 2007

Gas & Food Increases Stretch Working Families Food Budgets

Comments from the Executive Director

A Place at the Table 2007

New Executive Committee for RRFB Board of Directors

Agency Highlights

Welcome Addition to RRFB Staff –New Director of Programs & VISTA Worker

Sticking a Fork in Summer Hunger

Join the Roadrunner Club

Upcoming Events

Comments from Roadrunner Food Bank's Executive Director, Melody Wattenbarger

My husband and I have been married for 36 years. When we first married, we were both in school full time and working part time. Even after this many years I remember how difficult it was. We had to juggle bills, eat meals with family, and agonize over how to pay the next semester's tuition. We worried about our health because we had no insurance. Our budget was very, very tight. There was absolutely no room for any extra, unanticipated expense. And in those early years we had no children.

Because of my own early experience, I can empathize with the many young families we hear about all the time. They work hard, sometimes at more than one job, and their budgets are very, very tight as mine once was. I can empathize with them all as I imagine their desperation when they stare at the gas pump or look at the cost of the food they need to survive. I can empathize as they worry about missing a day of work and losing pay. I can empathize as they anxiously watch the family for any sign of illness. I can empathize as they worry over something as seemingly minor as a flat tire.

Though I have been where these families are up to a point, I had not yet become a parent at that time in my life. I cannot imagine looking at a gas pump and thinking not only about your own sacrifices but also about the things your child will be deprived of. I cannot imagine not being able to take your children to the doctor when they are sick. I cannot imagine knowing that your children are missing out on their educations because you just don't have enough money to make ends meet. **What I truly cannot imagine is watching your child go hungry.**

For me the most difficult times in life financially came before I was a parent. Now that I have raised a child, I truly cannot imagine how much harder those early times would have been if there had been children to worry about. Millions of parents in our country don't have to imagine. They live it every single day.

A Place at the Table 2007 Call for Table Captains



You can give great support to Roadrunner Food Bank by being a Table Captain at ***A Place at the Table***, on **November 7, 2007** from 7:30 to 8:30 am at the *Embassy Suites Hotel*. ***A Place at the Table*** is Roadrunner Food Bank's annual fundraising breakfast where we ask those who care about ending hunger in New Mexico to join our *Full Plate Society*, or to make a financial donation in support of Roadrunner Food Bank.

Hosting or co-hosting a table of 10 is easy and fun. As a Table Captain, we ask you to:

- Think of friends, acquaintances, co-workers, family members and others to invite to join you at your table. As a Table Captain you do not ask anyone for a donation or a pledge.
- Host a tour of Roadrunner Food Bank for your invitees some time between now and ***A Place at the Table***. As a tour host you do not have to do any speaking on the tour.

Can we count on your support by hosting a table? This free inspirational breakfast lasts one hour and is an easy way to help Roadrunner raise much needed multi-year financial support. You and your guests hear first hand about the effect of hunger on the lives of children, seniors and working families.

Please contact Stephanie Silver at 247-2052 ext. 127 or Stephanie@rrfb.org to reserve your table at ***A Place at the Table***.

New Executive Committee for Roadrunner Food Bank Board of Directors

Roadrunner Food Bank Board of Directors has elected a new executive committee:

President: Lydia Ashanin – Health Care Service Corporation

Vice President: Perry Bendicksen – Brownstein, Hyatt & Farber, PC

Treasurer: John deGrauw – Wells Fargo Bank

Immediate Past President: Kathy Komoll – Avanti Corporate Services

Additional Roadrunner Food Bank Board of Directors members are:

Barbara Allender – Community Volunteer

Becky Burwinkle – Bank of America

Pamela Chavez – Don Chalmers Ford

Steve Ciepiela – Charles Stephen and Co.

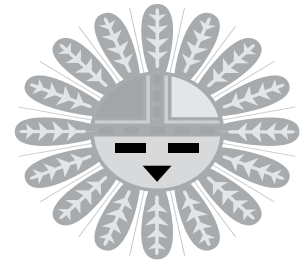
Mary Alice Collatz – Collatz Incorporated

Frank Fine – American Luggage Dealers Association

Debbie Hartz – New Mexico Mutual

Loeky Heaton – Community Volunteer

Anne McBrayer – Bank of America



Agency Highlight: Albuquerque Indian Center

In the southeast of Albuquerque near Central and Zuni, the **Albuquerque Indian Center** provides many services to approximately 1,000 people a week. Among the programs offered are *Training and Employment services, Counseling, Mail, Free Telephone* and their *Emergency Food Program*. They feed almost 1,000 per month. Their families are large with four or five per household. Many of their clients are working families, single parents, and the majority are without transportation. They also have a Summer breakfast and lunch feeding program that serves about 50 children daily.

Marissa Ramos, *Director of Prevention and Computer/GED Training Services*, said they are grateful for the partnership with Roadrunner Food Bank. "We have a lot of children and families that would be going hungry without Roadrunner's help. Our families rely on the commodities food program and the emergency food boxes."

Please join us in welcoming Art Fine, our new Director of Programs. Art brings 30 years of experience, most recently as Executive Director of Jewish Family Services. Welcome Art!

Program Update from Art Fine

As we grow accustomed to the dog days of summer that bring with it the rolling afternoon thunderstorms of the monsoons, we are reminded that the beginning of school is here. At Roadrunner Food Bank the beginning of the school year also means the resumption of the *Food for Kids* Backpack Program (FFK).

Food For Kids is among those special programs operated by the Food Bank that seek to address the nutritional needs of special populations. In this case the focus is on at-risk elementary school age children. Each week during the school year, Roadrunner Food Bank provides supplemental food to 3,100 children in 35 schools in our prime five county service area. These children have been identified by school personnel as being the most at-risk for experiencing hunger throughout the year. Our goal for this program is to serve 25% of those children eligible for the free-lunch (and breakfast) programs at each school. The schools selected for participation in the FFK program all have very high rates of their

student body qualifying for free-lunch, with many schools having 100% of their students qualifying.

Roadrunner Food Bank provides backpacks to each school and delivers the appropriate amount of servings each week. Among the menu items included are entrées, fruit, milk, cereal, peanut butter, crackers, pudding, fruit juice and granola bars. While some of the foods placed in the backpacks are donated, the majority are purchased by the Food Bank to ensure the consistency and quantity required by the program throughout the school year. It would be impossible to rely solely on donated items to fulfill the nutritional requirements of this important program.

School personnel with the help of volunteers at each school, pack the backpacks on a weekly basis, and distribute them on Friday for students to take home over the weekend. This insures that these children will not go hungry in spite of the absence of the free breakfast/lunch program over

the weekend. These school-provided meals may be the best source of nutrition students experience during the year. Students return the backpacks to the school the following Monday for the process to begin again.

This program is an unqualified success as documented by reports from the school personnel and volunteers involved in the program, by the parents whose children participate in the program, and from the children themselves. While notebooks, pencils and rulers are important to a child's success in school, here at Roadrunner we believe that the most important school supply is food.

We are gratified to be able to provide this critically important program to thousands of children and their parents. Our thanks to the many school personnel and volunteers who make this program possible at each school. *And thanks to you, Roadrunner supporters and volunteers, whose financial support and hours of volunteering make this vital program possible.*

Join the Roadrunner Club!

Roadrunner Club members' monthly contributions of \$10 or more sustain Roadrunner Food Bank's ongoing programs and help us meet new challenges in ending hunger in New Mexico. Imagine what your Roadrunner Club contribution can do:

- \$12 monthly provides a senior citizen a box filled with non-perishable foods; enough for 30 meals.
- \$15 monthly provides a child with a weekly backpack full of nutritious easy open foods to eat over the weekend.
- \$20 monthly provides a family in crisis with an emergency box filled with enough food to feed four for 24-48 hours.

Becoming a *Roadrunner Club* member is easy—just one phone call can help feed so many! For more information, please contact Patty Gillis at 247-2052, ext. 101.



WELCOME!

Our New VISTA Worker...Chris Sharp

Chris is working with Art Fine on upgrading the efficiency and effectiveness of Roadrunner Food Bank's programs. Chris is visiting each of our program sites for the *Food For Kids*, *Senior Helpings* and the *Emergency Family Food Box* programs. On a one-year VISTA grant, Chris chose to join Roadrunner Food Bank. Chris says, "I had my choice of placement opportunities through VISTA, but Roadrunner's mission of eliminating hunger in New Mexico was a compelling one that captured my attention and I just couldn't ignore. I love my work!"

Sticking a Fork in Summer Hunger

Five hundred low income children had regular meals this summer. They benefited from a pilot feeding program through the State of New Mexico funded by the *PNM Resources Foundation*. In addition to daily lunches, the children at *La Mesa Elementary* in Albuquerque and *Eating Smart* in Ruidoso Downs received weekly backpacks through a summer version of Roadrunner Food Bank's *Food For Kids* program.

Diane Harrison Ogawa, *Executive Director of the PNM Resources Foundation* said, "Too many New Mexican children and their families go hungry, especially during the summer. It's important for all of us to take a stand on hunger and create solutions toward ending it."

The program made a big difference in the lives of the children. Monica Tapia, *Principal of La Mesa* said, "The students loved the snacks and the backpacks they were able to keep at the end of the summer program. By Wednesday, students were asking if it was time to get their backpacks filled with goodies."

For many, the backpacks were more than just snacks. One day after the distribution, one single mother of four in Ruidoso Downs said, "You don't know how much this means to us. I don't know how we would have made it through the summer without this food."

Thanks *PNM Resources Foundation, Governor Richardson's Faith Based Community Initiative, La Mesa Elementary* and the *Eating Smart/Sierra Dove Global Association* for **sticking a fork in hunger** this summer!

ROADRUNNER FOOD BANK

OF NEW MEXICO



2645 Baylor SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(505) 247-2052 • FAX (505) 242-6471
www.rrfb.org

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albuquerque, NM
Permit No. 1629



United Way of
Central New Mexico



Upcoming Events

Souper Bowl 2008 Tickets on Sale September 1st

Souper Bowl 2008



Enjoy great food and music while supporting Roadrunner Food Bank! Get your tickets early this year for Albuquerque's favorite event – *Souper Bowl 2008* where 35 restaurants will serve delicious soups and desserts. Each year the competition gets tougher as restaurants vie for

first place from the celebrity judges and guests. All proceeds from ticket and silent auction sales benefit Roadrunner Food Bank. Tickets go on sale beginning **September 1, 2007** on our website at www.rrfb.org or contact Shannon Martinez at 247-2052, ext. 125.

This event sells out each year and space is limited, so please get your tickets early!

Calling all Children Artists!



Roadrunner Food Bank is looking for a new holiday card design.

We are calling all children ages 6-13 to send in their full color art to be considered.

The winning entry will be judged by a panel of community judges. Interested children should submit their drawings to:

Roadrunner Food Bank
2645 Baylor SE, Albuquerque NM 87106.

Contest deadline is Friday, September 28th. Name, age of child, story about their design and contact information must be included with their original artwork. The winning artist will have their design made into Roadrunner Food Bank's *2007 holiday card* and *win great prizes* from *Radio Disney* and *Comcast*. The grand prize features items from *High School Musical*, *Hannah Montana*, and *Meet the Robinsons*.



For more information and complete rules, visit our website at www.rrfb.org