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**ROADRUNNER
FOOD BANK**
O F N E W M E X I C O



History of the Food Bank 1980—2011

Roadrunner Food Bank
5840 Office Blvd. NE
505.247.2052 / rrfb.org

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30 Years of Serving New Mexico “Lend Me Your Ears!”

2010 marked the 30th anniversary of Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico. To us, we weren't just celebrating an anniversary, but rather the service we continue to provide to those in our community who suffer from hunger. Unfortunately, over the years we have seen the number of hungry New Mexicans continue to grow. As a result we have evolved and grown so that we can close the hunger gap in our state. In fact, our growth now allows us to provide food to nearly 40,000 children, seniors and adults EVERY single week through hundreds of partner agencies, four fellow regional food banks, and direct service programs that Roadrunner Food Bank runs.

We are here to serve the hungry in communities across the state. We complement existing food programs through a network of partner agencies, and direct food programs, such as our Mobile Food Pantry, our Food for Kids Program, and our Senior Helpings Program.

It has been said, “You have to look back to know where you've come from, to know where you are going.” We want to look back to see where we have been and what we have learned while looking to the future to create plans that will fulfill our mission of ending hunger in New Mexico.

*“I'm not sure that the need is different, but I think that the need is handled better.”- Former board member
Mike Swisher*

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“Rome was not Built in a Day.”

In the late 1960s and early 70s the economy was very weak. It was a period of hyper inflation, interest on car loans was about 16%, food prices were inflated, and oil prices had spiked forcing Americans to fill up on alternate days. Also, during that period unemployment/underemployment was at an all time high.

That meant that hunger was on the rise for many Americans because there was less money in a household's monthly budget to afford food.

A few years prior the federal government had issued a study of food waste in the United States. John Von Hengle was the first person to connect the dots...food surplus and utilizing it to provide food to the hungry.

Van Hengel volunteered to feed the hungry in his local Phoenix community when he learned that retailers threw away food that was unsalable including damaged product and food near expiration dates.

When he realized good food was being thrown away, Van Hengel began asking retailers to donate the food to feed the hungry in his community. With that start, he asked St. Mary's Basilica to serve as a “bank” of food and funds where social service agencies could come to get food for the hungry people they served. Von Hengle went to grocery stores and saved food from going into dumpsters.

Those beginnings formed the first food bank in the world in Phoenix, Arizona and came to be known as St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, founded in 1967. In its first year it distributed about 250,000 pounds of food.

Food banks probably would have stayed small and local, but the federal government discovered what Von Hengel was doing in Phoenix. A now non-existent federal organization called CSA (The Community Service Administration) made a grant to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance to take their idea and grow more food banks in the US.

Part of the grant funds allowed St. Mary's to travel to communities and spread the word. It also allowed for the first annual food bank conference, bringing together advocates of the poor to learn about the concept of food banks. The organization that formed from those first conferences came to be called Second Harvest or America's Second Harvest (known today as Feeding America).

Once the food bank concept reached a critical mass of interested communities, it exploded. It took off in a very short amount of time in communities throughout the US. As a result many food banks were formed in the late 1970's up until about 1984, becoming a movement in communities across the country.

Today Feeding America is the nation's leading hunger-relief organization with the mission to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of more than 200 member food banks.

One of those food banks is Roadrunner Food Bank, the 40th food bank that joined what is now Feeding America in 1980.

History of Roadrunner Food Bank

“The First Step is Always the Hardest”

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As a food bank, our start was from humble beginnings. The first food that Roadrunner Food Bank distributed began out of the trunk of a car, and it was a load of corn on the cob. Now 30 years later we are distributing more than 24 million pounds of food a year; the equivalent of about 800 semi-truck loads of food.

History of
Roadrunner Food Bank

Roadrunner Food Bank was started by Rev. Titus Scholl who had a vision. Rev. Scholl worked with the poor most of his life and witnessed the tremendous need right here in Albuquerque. In 1978 he attended the first food bank conference and two years later in 1980 formed the 501c3 Roadrunner Food Bank Inc.

Roadrunner Food Bank
Founder Rev. Titus Scholl

In the late 1970s and early 80s there were few food banks in the country, and the ones that did exist were paving the way to the future. In fact, the concept of a food bank was different and new because it served as a “bank” of food serving agencies who in turn fed the hungry in their communities. It wasn’t a food pantry or hot meal program whose purpose is to directly provide food to the hungry, but rather a distribution center to gather food from local, regional and national food sources to serve agencies.

Melody Wattenbarger
President and CEO

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The beginning for the Food Bank was tough. Initial funding for Roadrunner Food Bank was a \$20,000 gift from the Albuquerque Metro Ministry and personal loan of \$20,000 from Rev. Titus and Charlotte Scholl. That initial \$40,000 was the seed money for Roadrunner. Even though at a later time the Scholls were repaid, the couple risked their personal funds to make the Food Bank a reality. Plus, beyond that the Scholls made an annual contribution of \$1,000 a year for the first few years the Food Bank existed.

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Melody Wattenbarger, current president and CEO of Roadrunner, said of the Scholls, “They were the kind of people who dedicated their entire life in service to other people. They chose to go beyond the ministry by providing that personal loan to start the Food Bank. It was a huge leap of faith. I know they didn’t have much money and it must have been their life savings at the time. It was an immensely courageous thing they did to begin an organization that may or may not have worked.”

Bob Jilbert

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With initial funding in place, more challenges were ahead including finding a warehouse for the newly formed Food Bank, trucking to haul food to New Mexico, and volunteers to support the needs of the Food Bank since the staff was so few.

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“The budget and the fundraising was pretty small by comparison. It was very rudimentary and really it was a one man show.” - Former board member David Campbell

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Roadrunner Food Bank Founder Rev. Titus Scholl “Bearing Fruit”

Rev. Scholl was active in the Albuquerque community for 44 years. While the Scholls lived here they started a clothing, furniture and food program for the needy that is now The Storehouse. They were also active in an organization called Bread for the World. On a Bread for the World blog site it is said of the Scholls, “They have left a big legacy here in Albuquerque, not only with The Storehouse and Roadrunner Food Bank, but with their work in assisting with offerings of letters at St. Paul Lutheran Church and other congregations.”

When talking about the start of the Food Bank the widow of Rev. Scholl, Charlotte Scholl said,* “There was so much need in Albuquerque and we thought something should be done. It was the Arizona Food Bank where my husband got the idea to start Roadrunner Food Bank.”

In a historical document written by Rev. Scholl he said, “I went and fell in love with the idea: concerned about the hungry poor, a food bank gathers foods locally and wherever.” He also wrote,** “Here’s a way to feed the very poor inexpensively. I am sure that my family background, making do with little income, had a lot to do with the appeal of the food bank idea.”

The first challenge Rev. Scholl faced was obtaining food locally. Albuquerque didn’t have a lot of food manufacturers. As Charlotte Scholl said, “You had to go far to get anything.”

Scholl continued, “During that time it was hard to get donations of food from anyplace. He would have to go across the country and sometimes he would get something and sometimes he wouldn’t. We tried locally, but it was difficult to get food. If he did get food donated, transportation was difficult. He had to rely on local trucking, but it took a lot of work to convince people to help.”

*Information about Rev. Scholl was collected in an interview with his widow Charlotte in June 2010.

** Quotes from Rev. Scholl were found in a historical file that included an article he wrote about his life in an unknown printed publication and a personally typed piece he wrote about the start of the Food Bank.



Rev. Titus Scholl

Roadrunner Food Bank Founder Rev. Titus Scholl

“Bearing Fruit”

When Rev. Scholl needed advice or guidance, he sought advice from the founders of the St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance in Phoenix. Charlotte Scholl said, “He got to know the two men who started the Arizona Food Bank really well. They would come up and consult with him. It was a grand experiment and they were all looking for ways to help each other. Plus, the two men in Phoenix had a real spirit and they weren’t going to give up and neither was my husband.”

When asked about why he felt starting food banks was important Charlotte Scholl said, “He just thought this is something that can do good across the county. There are so many poor and such a need for food for people and this was one way to fill that need. He felt he was making a much bigger contribution than he was making as a minister.”

After the initial funding was in place a warehouse for the food was necessary. Rev. Scholl worked with Bill Towne of Berger Briggs and found a place that would be the first home of Roadrunner Food Bank. It was a former Goodwill building and was located at 1119 Edith SE. It was about 13,000 square feet and had two homes on the property. The building was a \$100,000 purchase in 1979/80. Goodwill and Roadrunner entered into a lease to purchase agreement with the monthly payments being considered part of the purchase price.

Finding the funds to bring in food to New Mexico was another challenge. One of the first shipments cost about \$700 to bring in a load of 36,000 pounds of macaroni and cheese from Illinois. In 2010 the cost to bring in a comparable donated semi-load of food is about \$2,000.



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Several other important milestones in the early years of Roadrunner Food Bank were:

- Securing a two year \$130,000 grant from the now defunct federal Community Services Administration
- Obtaining a 16 x 20 foot commercial freezer and refrigerator courtesy of Safeway
- Securing a Levi Strauss grant to purchase the Food Bank's first truck which was still in use in 1992 (12 years later)
- In 1980, the Food Bank obtained 131,000 pounds of food. Just one year later (1982) it nearly tripled to 303,931 pounds of food
- In 1981, 75 agencies were receiving food from the Food Bank that were providing food to about 10,500 people each month. In 2010, more than 600 agencies regularly receive food from us and our partner regional food banks to feed nearly 40,000 people each week.

When Food Bank staff asked Charlotte Scholl about what Rev. Scholl might think about an organization that is still serving the hungry 30 years later she said, “He would be thrilled it has grown and that it is still there after all these years. The need is still there.”

An Albuquerque Journal article dated Dec. 13, 2001, said that Rev. Titus Scholl was born in Hellertown, Pennsylvania and was the 10th child of a Pennsylvania Dutch family. He was the only member of his family who attended college. The article indicated that the Reverend felt his family was “poor and proud.” Rev. Scholl, the life-long servant of the poor and a hunger-relief advocate, died on December 10, 2001, at 87 years old.

“It calls into question the goal I had in 1980 of ending hunger in my lifetime. And we don't seem to have done that. The need has gotten greater; fortunately our ability to meet the needs has grown, but not as much as hunger.”

-Former board member David Campbell

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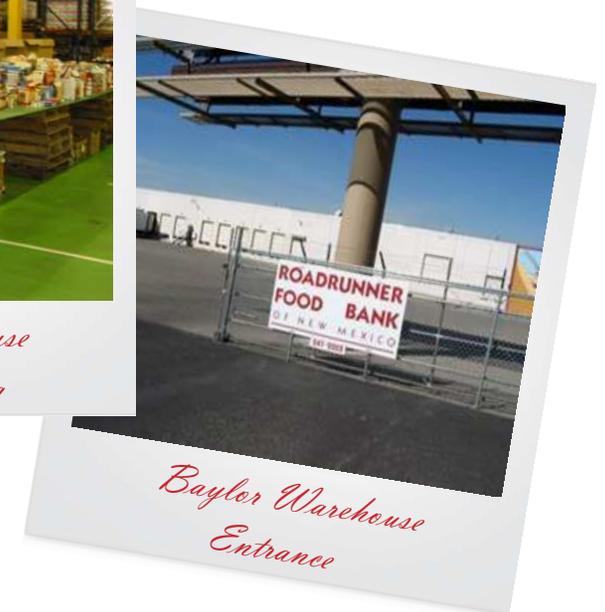
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Melody Wattenbarger, President and CEO “A Labor of Love”

Melody Wattenbarger started at Roadrunner Food Bank in 1995. She took the helm at a time when much at the Food Bank needed to change. Bob Jilbert, a staff member at the Food Bank for 18 years said, “When I first started in 1992 we had one broken down truck that worked sometimes. Melody’s presence here has changed that.”

Her first few years at Roadrunner Food Bank were similar to starting the organization all over again. Even though the Food Bank had been in its second home at 2645 Baylor SE for about a year prior to her start, it was no longer growing.

Luckily she wasn’t new to food banking or starting an organization from scratch. She had witnessed hunger before and at one point ran the newly formed food bank in Amarillo, TX.



Melody Wattenbarger, President and CEO

“A Labor of Love”

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Early in her career after realizing she didn't enjoy the world of teaching in academia, Melody took a job for the State of Texas and their equivalent of our Health and Human Services Department.

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She said of her experience, “Texas was one of the last places in the US to adopt the food stamp program. I was involved in getting that program going for six years. In those days we made home visits and I witnessed hunger for the first time. In many cases, the homes I visited didn't have any food in the home, and there wasn't a lot we could do for people in those days. There were no food banks, no food pantries, and the food stamp program was too new to provide any immediate help.”

Roadrunner Food Bank
Founder Rev. Titus Scholl

After leaving that position and going back to school for two master's degrees she found her calling at the Amarillo Food Bank. A friend of Melody's was on the newly created board of the Amarillo Food Bank and asked her if she wanted a job. She said, “Sure, but what is a food bank?” This new concept of a food bank appealed to her and she accepted the job as the High Plains Food Bank's first executive director.

Melody Wattenbarger
President and CEO

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Melody said, “The first years in Amarillo were really primitive. We had one full-time person besides me and two part-time senior citizens whose wages were subsidized. That was it...our entire staff.”

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Food was easier to obtain in Amarillo than in Albuquerque. Melody said, “There was lots of food in my early days in Amarillo. Food companies didn't yet have computer systems that controlled and monitored food production so the amount of extra food they produced was huge.”

Bob Jilbert

Distribution was tougher. She said, “There was nothing to go by, so we were inventing ourselves every day. We didn't have a robust distribution system for the food. We would have to convince agencies we were trying to bring on board that the concept of a food bank was a good idea.”

2011 and the Future

After she left Amarillo and moved to Albuquerque, she served as a national representative of Feeding America (formerly known as America's Second Harvest) and monitored more than 40 food banks across the country for several years. That experience and the fundraising experience Melody gained during her time at United Way of Central New Mexico prepared her to take on the difficult task of turning around Roadrunner Food Bank.

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In late 1995 Melody was hired as the fourth executive director of Roadrunner Food Bank, but it was like creating the organization all over again. Upon her arrival the Food Bank was on the verge of bankruptcy. Most of the board had resigned and the existing four to five board members voted to keep it open.

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Roadrunner Food Bank

She said, "There was a different philosophy at the time and food banks had tried to survive solely on shared maintenance fees.* That wasn't possible. We had no monetary donors and we had never done any private fundraising."

Roadrunner Food Bank
Founder Rev. Titus Scholl

Melody recalls, "During a period of time I went 12 weeks without a pay check and Bob Jilbert would do the same. Bob would come to me and say periodically, 'You can cash one check.' And we didn't fix anything. I had a small hole in my window with duct tape over it. The duct tape became so old it became brittle and fell off. I remember one winter when I watched a pile of snow form on my desk."

Melody Wattenbarger
President and CEO

Today the Food Banks' shared maintenance fees are about 11% of the total budget and there is a healthy mix of fundraising activities to ensure the Food Bank never encounters a financial crisis that could cause it to close.

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The monetary issues were just part of the organization's challenges in 1995/96. Agencies that received food from the Food Bank were worried. "I had a meeting with agencies early on and a woman at one agency said, 'You have to understand when we take food from the Food Bank, we are taking a chance.' The thought that agencies felt our food wasn't safe really saddened me. I had to start telling myself...what can I do today to move the Food Bank along?"

New Mexico's Response
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In addition, there were no volunteers to provide a base of support. The first thing Melody did was to get volunteers in and create projects for them. She explained, "If I could make sure they had a good experience volunteers would spread the word."

Bob Jilbert

But building a financial support system was difficult. The Food Bank had no money to buy anything. There was no technology except for a typewriter. There was no efficient way to start sending letters to ask people for support. To solve that problem, Melody went home one night and told her husband Steve they were donating a computer to the Food Bank.

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*Shared Maintenance Fee Definition - Food banks operate as a type of co-op where partner agencies (never hungry people) are asked to contribute or share a small fee per pound of food to defray some of the operational costs. Shared maintenance fees offset some of the costs of purchasing large quantities of food, shipping, sorting, warehousing and distributing food among hundreds of hunger relief organizations. Products that have no fee are all perishable and TEFAP items which are always FREE for agencies.

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Melody said, "I found a list with 200 names on it in a pile of other paperwork. I had no clue what the list was for and decided to send out a letter asking for support. I let Bob know that I was going to exceed our \$25 a month postage budget and that he needed to look the other way. It was our first donor mailing and it raised a couple thousand dollars. It worked!"

In the mid 1990s Roadrunner Food Bank didn't have computer technology for creating, managing and accurately accounting for inventory. She said, "We had no computerized inventory system, we had no pallet scales, and the small scales we had were inefficient and not accurate. When it came to weighing food, you were better to guess."

Melody credits improvement of the warehouse operations to long-time employee Jeff Carver. "Until we hired him we didn't have a professional approach to the warehouse. He took over that part and brought technology to the Food Bank, which got it working better."

Those first few years of Melody's time at the Food Bank proved to have challenge after challenge. "If I saw a little progress in a day that was the most I could hope for. At that time Feeding America (formerly known as America's Second Harvest) was getting ready to take us out of the food bank network. They came every three months with expectations of instant change. I convinced them to wait a year. I said to them, 'You have to give us time to make these changes, if you come every three months, we won't have enough time to fix it.'"

"We got to a point where we just had no money period and we were deciding whether to close the Food Bank or not. I was just absolutely adamant that we would not close."- Current board member Perry Bendicksen

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Over time things gradually began to improve. Melody said, "It was thousands and thousands of little baby steps." She credits some key milestones that helped to turn the Food Bank around.

- Receiving state funds to purchase produce in 1997
- Grants that were transformational and helped in the day to day operations of the Food Bank
- Receiving the first bequest that came out of the blue in November 1998

Melody said of the first bequest, "For us to receive such a generous gift, it was like being let out of jail. It gave me hope." She also credits the turnaround of the Food Bank to our community. She continues, "I am reminded all the time of how willing people are to help if they have a clear direction from us and can see the results of their help. That is the real story of the Food Bank. It is the thousands of people in our community that have helped us in good and bad times and made a huge difference."



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New Mexico's Response To Hurricane Katrina

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was a turning point for many of the nation's food banks, but especially for Roadrunner Food Bank. The national response saw food banks around the country rapidly responding to food needs in Louisiana and Texas. With our own "sister" food banks suffering depleted inventory it was essential for Roadrunner Food Bank and other food banks in the nation to supply food and clean water to the area.

The response of New Mexicans was tremendous and brought the name of Roadrunner Food Bank to many people's attention in a short amount of time. As a designated emergency food responder, food and funds poured into the Food Bank during that time.

All designated donations that came to Roadrunner Food Bank were sent to Louisiana and Texas to help. Every dollar collected was passed along to our sister food banks. Melody said, "We felt strongly just like everyone else in the country and wanted to help in the response efforts. We also knew that our community would respond and that they wanted to help too. It was very important to us to steward designated hurricane relief food and funds properly."

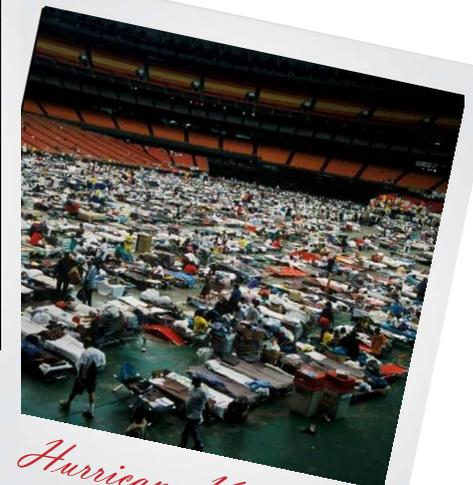
Melody continued, "It was the first time we offered ourselves publically in this type of crisis. We had no control over what product came in or the shape of the product and it was important to train volunteers how to handle the mass volume of food." Volunteers came to our facility every two hours, 60 at a time. Since our space was limited we found another warehouse where we transported finished and sorted boxed product.



Hurricane Katrina



Hurricane Katrina



Hurricane Katrina

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We were responding to a national disaster while still serving NM. In order to keep up with the hurricane efforts and continue to provide food to the hungry in our own state, the staff worked 100 hours a week.

Melody said of the community response, "It shut down our phone system; no one could call in or out. Every hour we would have 100 messages. We used cell phones until the batteries died and some staff brought in extra batteries to be able to respond to callers. United Way was close in proximity and wanted to help us with the response. Since they couldn't get through they came over and said, 'What can we do to help?' We desperately needed help with communications so United Way set up a system on their website for volunteers to register and lend a hand to us. It was a tremendous help."

Coordination of food distribution was complicated. We worked with our Feeding America network to transport food.

Melody remembered, "People just showed up wanting to drive food out there. Even though it was well intentioned, they didn't understand that Feeding America would notify each food bank when and where food was needed and arranged the trucking. Plus, we were receiving evacuees and needed to have some food boxes for new arrivals."

The response helped the community to see the Food Bank in a different light. They saw firsthand what could be done when a community comes together. Plus, it was important that both food and monetary donors had a positive experience. Many of those same donors continue to support our work today.

Melody said of the experience, "We were exhausted and the staff was really heroic working those long hours week after week. All in all, we did an amazing job responding along with the rest of the country to a national disaster."

Our community should be proud of how generous New Mexicans are. New Mexicans gave more in monetary donations through Roadrunner Food Bank to relief efforts than any other state in the nation.

Bob Jilbert

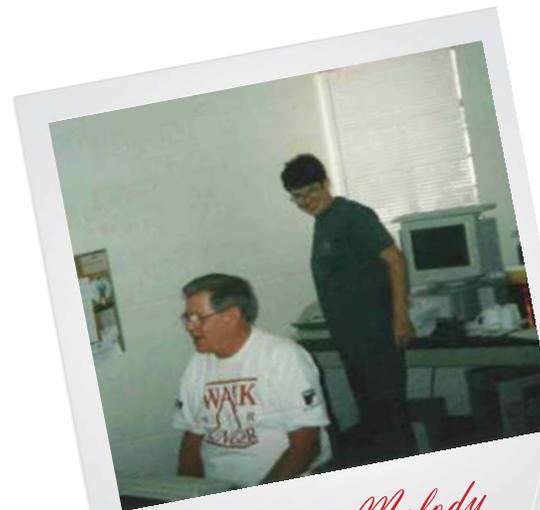
“Burning the Midnight Oil”

Bob Jilbert was at the Food Bank the longest of any employee in Roadrunner Food Bank’s history. During his 18 years, he served as the interim executive director, business manager and as the donor relations manager coordinating food donations from retailers to the Food Bank. However, it is not uncommon for Food Bank employees to stay on such a long period of time. Four staff members have been here over 10 years and five employees have been here nine years. Bob retired from the Food Bank in Dec. 2010.

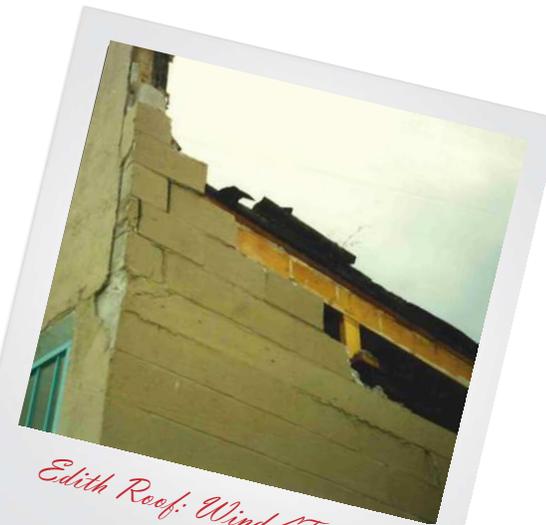
He said of his longevity at Roadrunner Food Bank, “When Melody arrived I was interim director and I actually gave her my resignation her first day saying I would stay as long as she needed me, and 18 years later (talk about procrastination), I’m still not sure she has found my replacement. When I retire, I’m just not going to show up and see how long it takes for people to notice I’m not here.”

Bob had been with the Food Bank since its original location on Edith. He said of the facility, “It had a lot of structural problems and was difficult to get around. It was a very small warehouse and agencies would have to crawl through our freezer to find what they might want.”

When the roof was damaged on the Edith building from a tornado in January 1994, the Food Bank was forced to move. Bob said, “The roof was raised in one corner and fortunately we were already in the process of locating a new larger facility.”



Bob & Melody



Edith Roof: Wind/Tornado Damage

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The move into Baylor was positive, but it was difficult to manage the deteriorating finances. That year was particularly difficult for Bob. He explained, “I was frustrated and burned out as interim director. But I knew Melody’s arrival would make the Food Bank something more than what it was. At the time, I didn’t know what that was, but I have been pleased to be a small part of it. She has guided us to where we are today. It is her leadership.”

Over the years, Bob has seen a lot of change to the organization. He said, “When I first started we had one broken down truck that worked sometimes.” Today the Food Bank has a fleet of about 15 box trucks and tractors, but more vehicles continue to be needed to handle the increased need and a second location in Las Cruces that opened in Jan. 2011.

Bob commented about how he felt about our organization today, “The professionalism of the organization is the most significant thing I can say about us. It reflects on our standing in the community. People now know of our existence even if they don’t fully understand our work. Professionalism permeates all aspects of the Food Bank.”

When asked about our move to the Food Bank’s warehouse on Office Blvd. he said, “I feel our move to the current home on Office was absolutely necessary to have a larger space for the increased need for food by our agencies and the hungry they serve.”

“I knew that if we had survived that then we would just continue from success to success with only momentary setbacks.”- Current board member Perry Bendicksen

30 Years of Serving
New Mexico

How Food Banks Started

History of
Roadrunner Food Bank

Roadrunner Food Bank
Founder Rev. Titus Scholl

Melody Wattenbarger
President and CEO

Turnaround
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New Mexico's Response
To Hurricane Katrina

Bob Jilbert

2011 and the Future

Timeline
Of Key Dates

What Happened In...

2011 and the Future

“We Welcome You With Open Arms”

There is much to acknowledge and be grateful for. In a little more than 10 years an almost bankrupt organization has turned around. The Food Bank has expanded to meet the growing needs of hungry people in our state in an effort to close the hunger gap. In the last 10 years our food distribution has increased more than 115%. In 2001, we distributed about 11.2 million pounds of food annually compared to the 24.5 million we distributed in 2010/2011. Growth has been important in ensuring we have the ability to be here for the hungry people in our state.

The recent economic downturn of 2008 and 2009 has left more of our fellow New Mexicans in need and requiring help with food (nearly 40,000 every week). High unemployment and underemployment is still a struggle for those who haven't given up looking for a job. We still see that even though families have an employed adult in the household there is not enough money to afford food all month long. Even though people may be on government programs such as SNAP (food stamps), WIC, etc. it isn't enough to meet all their monthly food needs. Seniors are having to choose medicine over food, and more and more children can't count on regular meals or enough food in their homes.

That is why we are still seeking to end hunger in New Mexico. Even though we celebrate 30 years of service to our community, the need is still apparent. While it is important to look back and reflect on what we have accomplished over the years, it is also important to see what we can do today and tomorrow and the day after to help the hungry.

Our hope is that you will become involved with Roadrunner Food Bank by being a part of our future. You can help in many ways, such as making ongoing monetary gifts, inviting friends and family to become involved in our work, volunteering throughout the year and most importantly being a friend to the Food Bank. Honor our work by supporting our mission, our cause, and our desire to ensure we have the right tools to be there for our community in good times and in bad.

“I've always believed in the mission of the Food Bank.” - Former board member Mike Swisher

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What Happened In...

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- 1978 Rev. Titus Scholl attends first national Food Bank conference
- 1979 Albuquerque Metro Ministry Provides Seed Money to Start Roadrunner Food Bank
- 1980 Food Bank becomes 40th member of America's Second Harvest (now Feeding America)
- 1980 Food Bank Founded by Rev. Titus Scholl
- 1981 Food Bank purchases first building at 1109 Edith Blvd. SE
- 1981 Buddy Gallegos succeeds Rev. Titus Scholl as Food Bank Director
- 1985 Food Bank distributes 1 million pounds of food for the first time
- 1990 Sherry Lee succeeds Buddy Gallegos as Food Bank Director
- 1994 Tornado/Wind damages roof of the building
- 1994 Food Bank purchases and moves into second building at 2645 Baylor Ave. SE
- 1995 Melody Wattenbarger succeeds Sherry Lee as Executive Director
- 1997 Food Bank begins distributing produce
- 1998 Food Bank receives first bequest in its history
- 2000 Legislature appropriates funds to New Mexico Association of Food Banks to support produce program
- 2001 Food Bank distributes more than 10 million pounds of food
- 2001 Food Bank launches Food for Kids backpack program
- 2003 Food Bank starts Senior Helpings program
- 2003 TEFAP commodities program responsibilities given to Food Bank
- 2004 Food Bank holds first A Place at the Table fundraising breakfast
- 2005 After Hurricane Katrina and Rita, Food Bank takes major role in raising funds to support the crisis
- 2008 Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry is launched to bring food to rural and needy communities
- 2009 Food Bank moves into third warehouse located at 5840 Office Blvd. NE
- 2010 First time study released # – Missing Meals with county level information
- 2011 Food Bank distributes 24.5 million pounds of food
- 2011 Food Bank opens a second location in Las Cruces, NM to serve Dona Ana, Luna, Grant and Hidalgo counties
- 2011 Food Bank begins 'Green Initiatives' such as recycling, composting and installing energy efficient lighting, insulation and fans.

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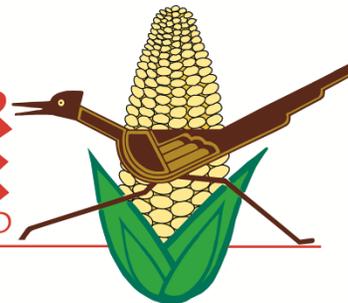
1980:

- The price of gas was \$1.00
- The #1 movie in 1980 is Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back
- Oscar for Best Actress was Sissy Spacek for her role in Coal Miner's Daughter
- Mount St. Helens erupts
- John Lennon is assassinated
- The US boycotts the Olympics in the Soviet Union
- Philadelphia Phillies win their first World Series

2010:

- Earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and China
- Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill
- Oscar for the Best Actress in a Leading Role – Sandra Bullock in The Blind Side
- 2010 World Cup Held in South Africa
- 800 million people worldwide on Facebook
- You Tube becomes entertainment destination

**ROADRUNNER
FOOD BANK**
OF NEW MEXICO



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