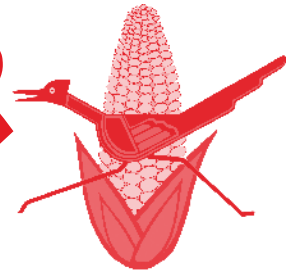


ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP



Spring 2009

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

SUMMER HUNGER, THE FOOD FOR KIDS PROGRAM AND THE INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM



As May rolls around children begin to get excited for the dog days of summer that bring with them afternoon thunderstorms and time away from school. But

even though most students look forward to the additional free time, many dread the summer months. These are the children who rely on school breakfast and lunch programs, but now that they are out of school for the summer they are experiencing hunger.

Summer is a peak time for hunger among children.

In New Mexico, one out of four children in our state wonder where their next meal will come from. When they don't have enough food, children experience pain, anxiety, stress and fear that there may not be meals they can count on.

But one way Roadrunner Food Bank is able to help children during the summer is through the Intergenerational Summer Food Program, coordinated by the New Mexico Collaboration to End Hunger. Roadrunner Food Bank distributes child-friendly food to more than 40 sites providing bags filled with food to last a child through a weekend. Thanks to private donors and organizations it is estimated that 7,000 children will receive weekend bags at food program sites around the state. With the economic downturn, the program expects that the

number of children who will access summer food assistance will increase by 38 percent.

Other partners of the summer food program include the Children, Youth and Families Department and the Public Education Department. These two organizations partner with the NM Collaboration to End Hunger and identify underserved communities around the state and recommend summer food sites. If you know a child who needs help with weekend food this summer, please e-mail: npope@albuquerquefoundation.org. Families and seniors who need access to food assistance over the summer should call **1-800-EAT COOL (1-800-328-2665)**.

WISH LIST

Items Needed for Our New Food Bank

Here's a way you can help Roadrunner Food Bank as we adjust to our new home on Office Blvd.



If you or someone you know is able to donate one or more of these items, please call or e-mail **Andrea Bromberg** at **349-8929** or andrea@rrfb.org.

Throughout the upcoming months we will need the following items:

- Two new refrigerators with automatic ice makers
- Two new office or apartment size refrigerators
- Two new dishwashers
- New storage units / shelves
- 20 new 90" round table cloths (*preferably red, white or beige*)
- 20 new or gently used conference chairs
- Reception area side and coffee tables
- Glass display cases

2009-2010 Board Member Elections at Roadrunner Food Bank

In February, board member elections for Roadrunner Food Bank were held. The slate of officers for 2009-2010 include Perry Bendicksen, President of the Board of Directors. Bendicksen is a Shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, P.C. John deGraauw, who is the PCS Regional Manager at Wells Fargo Bank, serves as the Vice-President/President-Elect. Steve Ciepiela, the Principal/Owner at Charles Stephen and Co., Inc. is the newly-elected Treasurer, and Frank Fine, Executive Director of the American Luggage Dealers Association, serves as Secretary of the Board.

Other members of the Board of Directors at Roadrunner Food Bank are: Barbara Allender, a community volunteer; Lydia Ashanin, Director of Corporate Affairs, Health Care Service Corporation/ Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NM and Immediate Past President; Rabbi Joe Black of Congregation Albert; Becky Burwinkle, Vice President of Treasury Management at Bank of America; Mary Alice Collatz, Chief Financial Officer of Collatz Incorporated; Sid Gutierrez, Director of Nuclear Energy and Global Security Technologies at Sandia National Labs; Debbie Hartz, Vice President of Administration at New Mexico Mutual; Natasha Martell, Community Programs Manager at Intel; Bob Murphy, Executive Director at Economic Forum; Brent Rice, Executive Director of Customer Solutions at PNM; and Robert Scott, Owner of the Halloween Super Stores.



Perry Bendicksen,
President of the
Board of Directors



John deGraauw,
Vice-President /
President-Elect
of the Board of
Directors

Letter from the Executive Director, Melody Wattenbarger

As I write this, it has been almost exactly 15 years since Roadrunner Food Bank moved into its warehouse on Baylor. When we moved into the facility, we were doubling our space. We were replacing a building that was more than 100 years old and that had had its roof blown off by a freak windstorm. After some renovations, we expected that the building would meet the Food Bank's needs for quite a few years.

At the time we moved into the Baylor facility, Roadrunner distributed about 1 million pounds of food per year. Since the building was large enough to allow for the distribution of 9

million pounds of food comfortably, the Food Bank looked forward to many years in the warehouse. However, the Food Bank unexpectedly reached 9 million pounds much sooner, in 2000, and changes in the food industry created the need for much more cold storage space than was originally envisioned when the Baylor property was purchased.

Since 2000, the Food Bank has grappled with many effects of overcrowding. Storage trailers have filled the parking lot. A second warehouse was leased. Off premises storage became the norm. Volunteers worked in the middle of the warehouse and had no area to take breaks. Food was handled over and over as staff struggled to make room. The Food Bank used every possible efficiency to move food faster. In 2004, distribution reached its peak of 17 million pounds, and Roadrunner hit its wall. No further growth was possible, and the Food Bank's board started the process of finding larger space.

After several years of looking, the ideal facility has now become available, and in mid-April we completed our move. We are thrilled about the new space, but all of the planning and activity has never really been about the building. It is, and always has been, about being able to start growing again to feed the hundreds of thousands of hungry people in New Mexico. Now, more than ever, we must grow if we are to feed the many, many newly hungry people who have felt the worst effects of the declining economy.

Thankfully, Roadrunner Food Bank is poised to grow again. We have the opportunity to provide millions of additional meals each year. These are meals that have never been more needed in our 29-year history. We will accommodate thousands of additional volunteers to help us get the work done. We will have many opportunities for earned revenue to help support our core mission. The bottom line is this...we are moving to end hunger. We very much appreciate all of the individuals and organizations who are helping us take this vitally important step. It is a step that will feed thousands of people now and for many years into the future.



Melody Wattenbarger

Food For Kids – Backpack Program During the School Year



Notebooks, pencils and rulers are important to a child's success in school, but here at Roadrunner we believe that the **most important school supply is food**. During the school year, the *Food For Kids* program serves 3,200 elementary school age children a week in 36 schools in five counties.

The *Food For Kids* program targets at-risk elementary school age children that school personnel identify as the most at-risk for hunger. The schools selected for participation in the *Food For Kids* program all have very high rates of their student body that qualify for free and reduced cost meals, with many schools having 100% of students that qualify.

Roadrunner Food Bank provides backpacks to each school and delivers the food each week. The backpacks include an entrée dish, fruit, milk, cereal, peanut butter, crackers, pudding, fruit juice and cereal bars.

School personnel, with the help of volunteers at each school, fill 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 during the weekend in spite of the absence of the school breakfast/lunch program. The food provided in the backpack helps the students have healthy and nutritious food available to them when no other food may be there to eat.

While some of the food in the backpacks is donated, the majority is purchased by Roadrunner Food Bank so that we are able to guarantee we will have consistent food every week. In one year, more than 110,000 servings of each item are needed to provide to hungry children. It would be impossible to rely solely on donated food to fulfill the nutritional requirements of this Food Bank program.

Expenses for the program continue to rise every year, but we are committed to the 36 schools already in the program. Despite the increased cost of food, Roadrunner Food Bank will ensure that services are not cut and that the food will continue to be available for hungry children.

Thank you to the school personnel and volunteers that make the *Food For Kids* program possible at each school. And we also thank you, Roadrunner Food Bank supporters and volunteers whose financial support and hours of volunteer work re-packing cereal make this program possible.

Tour Dates Scheduled at the New Home of Roadrunner Food Bank

We invite you to see the new home of Roadrunner Food Bank at **5840 Office Blvd NE**. If you or a community group would like a tour of the new warehouse, RSVP by calling or e-mailing Stephanie Miller at 349-8678 or stephanie@rrfb.org.

The next scheduled tour dates are:



May 6 from 8:30-9:30
May 20 from 8:30-9:30
June 3 from 8:30-9:30
June 17 from 8:30-9:30



STAMP OUT HUNGER! Food Drive

Mark your calendar for the 2009 STAMP OUT HUNGER! Food Drive. On **Saturday, May 9th**, please

have a bag of non-perishable food items for your letter carrier to pick up. The National Association of Letter Carriers, the Rural Letter Carriers Association, and the US Postal Service team up to host one of the largest food drives through the annual STAMP OUT HUNGER! Food Drive.

For more information about the STAMP OUT HUNGER! Food Drive call 349-8682 or visit www.rrfb.org.



Meeting Spaces Available

Is your group looking for a great space to hold your next meeting? Why not host your meeting at Roadrunner Food Bank? The Food Bank can accommodate both large and small groups.

For more information, call Ron Hidalgo at 349-8861 or e-mail ron@rrfb.org.

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Upcoming Events

Duke City Civitans Host Flea Market to Benefit Food Bank

Do you have items in your garage or home that you want to get rid of and help Roadrunner Food Bank at the same time? The Duke City Civitan Club will host a Flea Market as a benefit for the Food Bank on **SAT., JUNE 6TH from 7 am–1 pm** in the parking lot of the **First Community Bank** on Academy and Wyoming.

The Civitans are encouraging people to bring items to sell at 6:30 am. The community is also invited to come and shop for items beginning at 7 am. For more information on the Flea Market, contact **Karen Patterson** with the **Duke City Civitan Club** at **228-1617**.



TEE UP to Support Roadrunner Food Bank

FRI., AUGUST 7 New Mexico Grocers Association Golf Tournament

Santa Ana Golf Course
1pm Shotgun Start

The price of a four-person team is \$400 and \$100 for individuals. Lots of door prizes available!

To register, call **Gene** at **505-720-4891** or email at nmga@aol.com

SAT., AUGUST 29 Inaugural Red White and Blue Tournament

hosted by the *Rotary Club of Albuquerque*
Isleta Eagle Golf Course
Shotgun Scramble Start at 9 am

The price of a four-person team is \$600 and \$150 for individuals.

To register, go to **www.rotaryabqgolf2009.org** or call the *Rotary Club of Albuquerque* at **505-242-2651**.

This event is sponsored by:



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