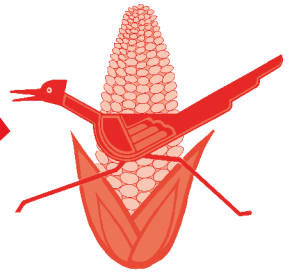


# ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP



Spring 2010

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

## Study Reveals More New Mexicans Need Help with Food



A landmark study, "Hunger in America 2010," released by the New Mexico Association of Food Banks and Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization,

reported that nearly 40,000 New Mexicans are seeking help from food assistance programs each week. That is the equivalent of providing a city the size of Farmington emergency food every week.

For two years, food banks and hunger relief organizations in New Mexico have been reporting unprecedented increases in demand of 30-40%. This study confirms that more of our fellow citizens need help with food and the study is the first large scale research study to capture the connection between the economic downturn and the increased need for food.

Kathy Komoll, executive director of the New Mexico Association of Food Banks said, "The importance of the study helps our state food banks evaluate and plan effective programs to respond to the increasing needs by our fellow New Mexicans. Plus, the study provides us valuable data that we share with policy makers, donors and supporters of our work demonstrating the struggle so many are facing with having enough to eat."

Roadrunner Food Bank helps conduct the study every four years and collected the data from February through June 2009. In New Mexico, 459 face-to-face interviews were conducted from people seeking emergency food assistance. 454 agencies that provide food assistance around the state also responded to the survey.



### Some of the results captured by the survey:

- 40% of the clients served by food assistance programs are children (*92,800 children annually*).
- 54% of the clients served report choosing between paying for utilities and food.
- 32% of households served by food assistance programs report having at least one employed adult.
- 41% of clients report having at least one member in the home in poor health.
- On average, SNAP (food stamp benefits) last only 2.3 weeks and many families still need help with food.
- The average monthly income for a household seeking help with food is \$900.
- 75% of the food pantries surveyed reported an increase in the number of people who need food.

**For more information about the local and national study visit [www.rrfb.org](http://www.rrfb.org).** The *About Us* page contains several fact sheets with updated information.



## A Peek into Hungry Children's Lives

The staff at Roadrunner Food Bank wanted to share with you a story we received about several siblings who benefit from our *Food For Kids Program* (a weekend backpack distributed in 38 elementary schools that is filled with food). *Thank you Principal Nicole Henderson of Mountainair Elementary School for sharing this moving story.*

*This story is about Nathan,\* a wonderful 5th grade boy who cares for his four younger siblings. Nathan is the only "adult" in the household. A few weeks ago, we had a Friday holiday and Nathan came to me early in the week about 6:30 am in the parking lot. He wanted to know if we would pass out backpacks on Thursday instead of Friday that week.*

*Nathan told me that if that wasn't possible, he would have to find another way to feed his siblings that weekend. I assured him that he and his siblings would get their backpacks on Thursday of that week. Until now, I had no idea how dependent and how valuable this program was to our students.*

*Thank you from all of us at Mountainair Elementary. You are making a difference in the lives of children and families.*

*\*Names of the children have been changed to protect their identity.*

## Letter from President and CEO Melody Wattenbarger

Some of the fondest and most enduring memories of my life are from childhood summer days such as visiting and traveling with grandparents. Swimming several times a week. Playing outside until long after dark. Relishing favorite foods like homemade ice cream, malts, and my all-time childhood favorite—flat greasy hamburgers. Even allowing for the "Leave It to Beaver" era I grew up in, my childhood days were idyllic. And that is exactly as it should be for all children of any generation.

Unfortunately summer is the hungriest time of year for far too many children. During the school year free breakfasts and lunches are the mainstay for families struggling to get by. When those free meals go away in the summer, families are hungrier. Summer days for the children in those families are far from idyllic.

Even though food is available to children in the summer (*call 1-800-EAT-COOL for locations*), it is not always available in locations easily accessible to families who must get to the sites on their own. Only about one third of the children who enjoy meals during the school year come to parks and other summer food sites in the summer.

Earlier this year we released the results of our quadrennial Hunger Study (*see related article in this newsletter*). While there are many alarming statistics in this study, by far the most concerning is the fact that the families of 16,000 children find themselves without enough food every single week in New Mexico. These are 16,000 children who may be missing key parts of their educations. They are children who likely don't feel well physically and who must feel different, in a bad way, most of the time. They are certainly children who cannot achieve their potential. And they are the children who dread summertime because they know that food will be even harder to come by when school is out.

We want to thank all of our food and fund donors and our volunteers for all you have already done to make life better for thousands of our hungry neighbors. As another summer approaches and you make plans for the children in your own life, we hope that you will also reach out to help feed children for whom this time of year is so difficult. After all, every child deserves the kind of summer that creates happy memories for a lifetime.

*Melody Wattenbarger*

## 2009 Holiday Food & Fund Drive Proves Prosperous

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the 2009 Holiday Food and Fund Drive raised more than the year before. The annual drive yielded **742,143 pounds of food**, a 3 percent increase of 21,143 pounds. Major sponsors of the food drive included Smith's, Starbuck's, KOB TV, KRST, KOB FM, ABQ Uptown, and the Albuquerque Journal who promoted the food drive and the issue of hunger.



More than 900 individuals and businesses hosted food and fund drives October through December 2009. The National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Rural Letter Carrier Association conducted the largest of the food drives just in time for Thanksgiving totaling more than 173,027 pounds of food.

**Thank you to everyone who helped make our Holiday Food and Fund Drive possible!**

## NEW MURALS REFLECT WORK OF ROADRUNNER

In early January, Roadrunner Food Bank unveiled two wonderful murals – one on the large wall in the Volunteer Lobby and the other in the Volunteer Hallway. These murals were painted by Joy Conway, a noted local artist. Joy was most generous with her time and talents. The mural in the lobby depicts many different aspects of the work of Roadrunner Food Bank in a colorful and elaborate way. With so many details in the mural, one follows the roadrunner's tracks to find him sitting comfortably at the far end of the mural. The mural in the Volunteer Hallway celebrates the many volunteers who make our work possible.



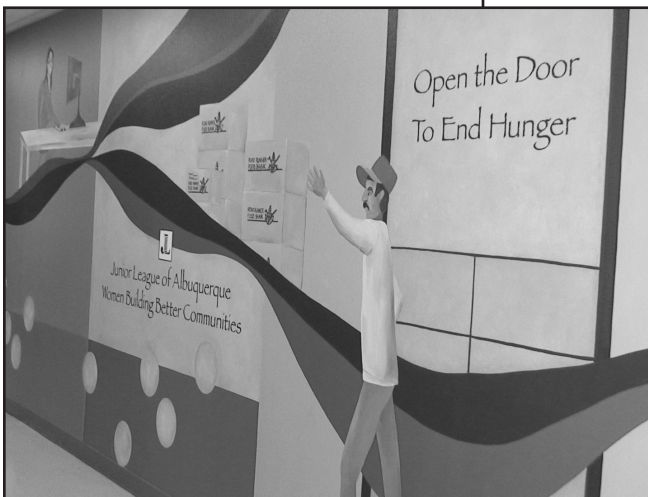
Joy Conway said, "For weeks I was so engaged in this project, but what moved me was to see the outpouring of support from hundreds of volunteers as they showed up to begin their service work. But on the other hand, I was also always saddened to hear the main desk phone ring knowing it was going to be another person inquiring about how to get food. I was shocked how many of those calls came in during the weeks I was there."

Both murals were made possible by generous gifts from donors. The lobby mural resulted from a gift from Pat and Kent Morrison and their daughter Susan in honor of the couple's 50th wedding anniversary. All three have been supporters

of Roadrunner and Pat and Kent volunteer at the Food Bank regularly. If you come to view the murals, you will see both Pat and Kent in the middle of the mural bringing bags of food to donate.

The second mural located in the Volunteer Hallway resulted from a generous gift from the Junior League of Albuquerque. The mural depicts actual volunteers who work with Roadrunner on a regular basis. With nearly 10,000 unduplicated volunteers assisting us each year, the mural honors the service of our volunteers.

These unique gifts have transformed our main lobby and volunteer hallway for thousands of supporters, volunteers and staff to enjoy for years to come. **Thank you to these special donors for making the home of the Food Bank an inviting and comfortable space.**



## STAMP OUT HUNGER! Food Drive



**Saturday, May 8th** join forces with the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Rural Letter Carriers Association and leave out a bag of non-perishable food at your mailbox. Your Letter Carrier will pick up the bag of food for Roadrunner Food Bank.

The May 8th Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is the largest single day food drive in the nation helping food banks and hunger relief agencies across the country. In times when more and more people need help with food, your support has never been more important. In New Mexico alone, agencies we serve are experiencing 30-40% increases in demand for food. So many of the people we help are new faces to hunger.

Give hope by cleaning out your pantry and filling a bag (or two) of food on Saturday, May 8th! The week of the drive, you can also make a food donation to any area Smith's Food and Drug or bring your donation directly to Roadrunner Food Bank.

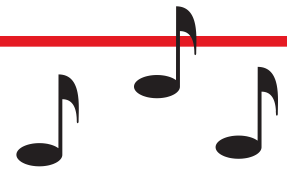
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## Upcoming Events



### May 8th Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Don't forget to clean out your kitchen pantry and leave out a bag of food for your letter carrier to

pick up. Look for details about the nation's largest food drive inside this newsletter.

**Tour Roadrunner Food Bank**  
May 19, June 16, July 21,  
8:30 am

Contact Stephanie Miller at  
349-8678 or [Stephanie@rrfb.org](mailto:Stephanie@rrfb.org)  
to let us know you are coming.

### May 20–August 12, Thursdays, 7 pm

#### **The Giant Convenience Store Music Series at the County Line**

Join the County Line (Tramway and Paseo) on Thursday nights at 7 pm for live music! Simply bring a bag of non-perishable food for entrance into the weekly concert series. Monetary donations are accepted too! Visit [www.countyline.com](http://www.countyline.com) for a schedule of performances.

### August 28, 9 am

#### **Rotary Club of Albuquerque/Continental Energy Systems, LLC Red, White and Blue Charity Golf Tournament.**

The tournament is a benefit for Roadrunner Food Bank and the Albuquerque Rotary Charitable Foundation. The tournament is a four-person scramble format with tee off at 9 am. Held at Isleta Eagle Golf Course, registration fees are \$600 for a four-person team. For more information visit: [www.rotaryabqgolf2010.org](http://www.rotaryabqgolf2010.org). Sponsors include:

- Continental Energy Systems, LLC
- Ethicon Endo Surgery
- REDW, the Rogoff Firm
- AmeriPride Linen & Apparel Services
- Starbucks Coffee
- John Shomaker and Associates, Inc.
- Manzano del Sol Good Samaritan Village
- Burrage and Johnson, CPA's, LC
- Rocky Mountain Mortgage

**For more promotions that benefit Roadrunner Food Bank,  
visit [www.rrfb.org](http://www.rrfb.org).**