

THE ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP

Fall 2022



MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

A Letter from the President and CEO — Mag Strittmatter



Sometimes it feels like we cannot catch a break, doesn't it? We have all been living through challenge after challenge and nothing seems certain. And now, soaring food prices are putting a serious strain on the lives of our friends and neighbors.

With costs increasing, families are facing impossible choices between buying food and paying for other necessities like rent, gas and medicine. For so many across

New Mexico, household budgets were already stretched thin. And seeing staples like bread, milk and eggs getting more expensive is not just a challenge for them, it is a crisis.

Roadrunner Food Bank helps relieve this hardship, but the rising cost of food and transportation makes it more expensive for us to keep shelves stocked. Donations have slowed, and the dollars donated to us do not go as far. It is not good enough to simply maintain our current cash donation levels; we will need to try to get more just to keep pace with rising costs on so many fronts.

Just like so many New Mexicans, we have been experiencing huge increases in food costs for things like canned vegetables, pasta, peanut butter and more. Roadrunner relies on donations of food, but we must always supplement those donations by sourcing and purchasing food to try to meet the need. And, while we try to leverage our buying power to get the healthiest food at the lowest price possible, we are finding that many of our costs are up to 200 percent higher than we have previously experienced.

What is adding to our challenges? Food availability. There has been a dramatic reduction in federal food available to us through pandemic-related funding. For Roadrunner, food sourced from these federal programs has decreased by an astonishing 66 percent. I wish that the need had followed suit.

Taking food from the food bank's warehouse to our network of hunger-relief partners across New Mexico means extraordinary fuel costs too. New Mexico is the fifth largest state in the country and one with a very high rate of food insecurity — especially for children. The only way we can transport food is with refrigerated semi-trucks. For every dollar increase per gallon of diesel? It hurts. And it means we have less money to use for food.

Together with our network of hunger-relief partners across the state, I am confident that we can bring food to people who do not have enough to eat. But we cannot do it without everyone pitching in to help. So, consider this a renewed call to action. I encourage you to give funds, give time, give food, and encourage others in your circles to do so as well. Every little bit helps, and only together can we ensure that everyone has the food they need.

Thank you for your continued support!



Mag Strittmatter
President and CEO

61%

CHOOSE BETWEEN
FOOD AND UTILITIES

66%

CHOOSE BETWEEN
FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION

59%

CHOOSE BETWEEN
FOOD AND MEDICAL CARE

48%

CHOOSE BETWEEN
FOOD AND HOUSING

30%

CHOOSE BETWEEN
FOOD AND EDUCATION



Our Volunteers are the Berry Best

Volunteers play a vital role at Roadrunner Food Bank and throughout the entire hunger-relief network in New Mexico. We believe that volunteering is the best way to experience fellowship while simultaneously helping those experiencing hunger in our state.

One of our dedicated volunteer groups is the staff of Heidi's Raspberry Farm, a local business that hails from Corrales, New Mexico. They are known for their fresh grown, handpicked raspberries that are transferred to their kitchen in Albuquerque to produce an array of delicious organic jams.

The staff of Heidi's are all native Burqueños and as such, they believe in giving back to their community. This group has hosted food drives, volunteered at mobile food pantries and helped provide hope to the people we serve.



"Volunteering with Roadrunner really drives home the notion that we're all in this together," shared Robert Hinton of Heidi's Raspberry Farm. "As a community we are only as prosperous as our least prosperous neighbors. Giving back means making sure no one feels forgotten."

As food manufacturers, Heidi's, like food banks, understands the amount of food waste that occurs nationwide. Participating in a process that reduces food waste and helps feed others brings much joy to their crew. The staff also recognizes that many of our community members are facing economic hardships due to inflation and increased food costs. They are continuing to do what they can to lend a helping hand to those who need it most.

"Loading up a car with food and having a brief exchange with the recipient is a reminder that hardship does not discriminate," said Robert. "New Mexicans are proud people, and you can tell that for some, charity is difficult to receive. No doubt the smiling faces and warm greetings on behalf of the volunteers preserves the dignity of those being served."

According to Robert, connecting with the Roadrunner staff and fellow volunteers is an awesome opportunity. He feels that their staff volunteer experiences are well organized and efficient. We are grateful to corporations like Heidi's Raspberry Farm for being committed to uplifting our neighbors through food!

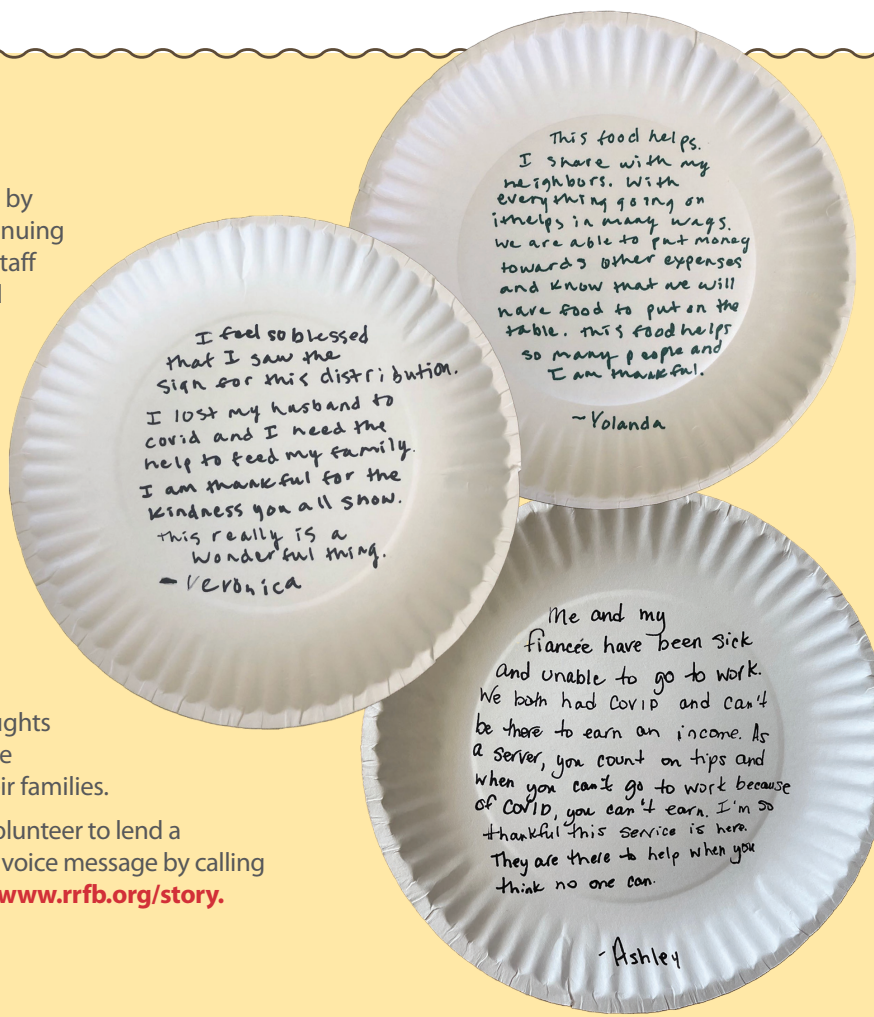
If you or your organization is interested in learning more about Roadrunner Food Bank's volunteer opportunities, we encourage you to visit www.rffb.org/volunteer or reach out to us directly at volunteer@rffb.org.

The Power of Stories

In a time when so many of our neighbors are being impacted by inflation and rising food costs, Roadrunner Food Bank is continuing to provide essential services to those who need it most. Our staff has heard numerous stories from children, adults, seniors and families who count on the hunger-relief network to ensure that they have meals to put on the table. Many people are continuing to face ongoing financial hardships and impossible choices when it comes to food. Because of this, they are turning to Roadrunner for help and support.

Paper plates are a way for us to capture and share these unique experiences of the people we serve. These paper plate stories were provided to our team by the people we serve, typically through a car window as they waited in line for food at one of our distributions. We strongly believe in giving a voice to those in our community who are experiencing hunger. Paper plate stories are one way that allows us to accomplish this. We invite you to view some thoughts shared by community members about their situations and the impact that receiving this essential food has on them and their families.

We'd love to hear your story about why you donate funds or volunteer to lend a helping hand. You can email us at info@rffb.org, or leave us a voice message by calling (505) 226-5679. You can also submit your thoughts by visiting www.rffb.org/story.



This food helps.
I share with my neighbors. With everything going on it helps in many ways. We are able to put money towards other expenses and know that we will have food to put on the table. This food helps so many people and I am thankful.

- Yolanda

I feel so blessed that I saw the sign for this distribution. I lost my husband to Covid and I need the help to feed my family. I am thankful for the kindness you all show. This really is a wonderful thing.

- Veronica

Me and my fiancée have been sick and unable to go to work. We both had Covid and can't be there to earn an income. As a server, you count on tips and when you can't go to work because of Covid, you can't earn. I'm so thankful this service is here. They are there to help when you think no one can.

- Ashley

Updated Food Insecurity Data in Map the Meal Gap Report



Map the Meal Gap 2022 shows disparities in county level food insecurity and continues to rank New Mexico near the top for childhood hunger rates.

As Feeding America's local food bank member, Roadrunner Food Bank utilizes Map the Meal Gap research to help understand more about hunger in its service area and where gaps may need to be filled or services expanded in its statewide charitable hunger relief network. Map the Meal Gap 2022 finds that 1 in 5 New

Mexican children or 20.5 percent of children in the state is at risk of hunger and ranks second among all states and the District of Columbia for childhood hunger. The research also shows that 1 in 8 New Mexicans overall or 12.9 percent of the state's population is at risk of facing hunger.

The study provides data from 2020 and reveals that disparities can vary greatly by population and place especially in rural communities which show much larger percent of childhood and overall hunger rates. In addition, it was the first time the report includes food insecurity rates for several racial and ethnic groups at the local level.

New Mexico counties with the largest percentages of childhood hunger rates:

- **Luna County: 32.7 percent**
- **Catron County: 29.2 percent**
- **McKinley County: 29.9 percent**
- **Sierra County: 28.9 percent**

To learn more about the research, visit mapthemealgap.org.

NM FINDINGS 2022



20.5 PERCENT OF KIDS AT RISK OF HUNGER



99,100 kids



12.9 PERCENT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION AT RISK OF HUNGER



271,210 overall

Schools Serve as Hunger Relief Partners with Roadrunner Food Bank

Roadrunner Food Bank currently works with 85 schools that are partners of our Childhood Hunger Initiative. Schools typically receive and distribute hundreds of thousands of pounds of food provided from the food bank to children and their families. Together, we are reaching an average of 5,600 households every month. Even when school is out for summers and holidays, about half of our partner school sites continue to operate. In June 2022, the food bank and our partners provided upwards of 140,000 pounds of food, supplying critical meals for families struggling to make ends meet.

Even with the success of the Childhood Hunger Initiative, there are still many families with children that are facing impossible choices when it comes to food and other essentials. Roadrunner is currently preparing to add up to 15 more partner school sites. These will be located in areas identified as "high need" based on key demographics or in places where there are a limited number of hunger-relief organizations. These include Northwest Bernalillo County, Luna County, Otero County as well as rural and indigenous communities.

Providing food to low-income children means long-term positive outcomes for their families. While asking for help is never easy, a reliable and trusted location like a school is the perfect site to offer food assistance.

A teacher at a partner school recently shared about the impact of this program.

"Grandma Rose has lived near the school for a long time and suddenly had the responsibility of caring for her four grandkids - Tommy, Jonah, Shane, and the baby. The three older ones go to our school. Grandma Rose needed clothes, beds, and food right away. We were able to help her with that. We got her signed up with SNAP (food stamps). But with four kids - they eat a lot. She started coming to our school pantry to make ends meet. We deliver the food boxes every Friday and the kids look forward to that. Everyone seems to be adjusting well with the additional help."

Assisting individuals like Grandma Rose and her grandkids are the reason we pour so much effort into our Childhood Hunger Initiative and why we will remain dedicated to its development and expansion. In a state with the second highest rate of childhood hunger in the U.S., partnerships with schools are one way we can meet the food assistance needs of low-income families at a place they frequent and trust!

Know a K-12 school looking to help their children and families? Contact 505.349.5352 or ProgramsSupport@rrfb.org. Learn more at www.rrfb.org/member.



Give Funds, Give Time, Give Food this Holiday Season

OCTOBER:



Car-tober is a national awareness campaign held throughout October to raise awareness about donating your car, boat, RV's, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, heavy equipment and more to charities. Learn more at www.rrfb.org/cardonations.

16th: Hunger Hotline. If you or someone you know needs helps with food, watch KOB TV (NBC) from 5-7 pm. Staff will help incoming callers and provide information about food assistance anywhere in the state.

18th: Register to volunteer at our Thanksgiving special holiday drive through mobile food pantry at AMC Theatre located at 3810 Las Estancia Way in Albuquerque. Visit www.rrfb.org/volunteer for more information and www.rrfb.org/find-food for details about food help in your area.



19th: Letter Carriers Food Drive in Albuquerque. Leave bags filled with non-perishable food near your mailbox prior to the mail arriving. Your letter carrier will pick it up on our behalf. This event is still tentative as of the printing of this newsletter.

NOVEMBER:

22nd: Register to volunteer at our Thanksgiving special holiday drive through mobile food pantry EXPO NM located at 300 San Pedro Dr. NE in Albuquerque. Visit www.rrfb.org/volunteer for more information and www.rrfb.org/find-food for details about food help in your area.

25th and 28th: Your online shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday can help too! Shop smile.amazon.com to generate donations. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases back to your selected charity.

29th: It's #GivingTuesday. It is a global day of giving! Join in by volunteering and giving! Bring together your family, friends, business, or organization to do something for the community and in the community ... together! Visit www.givingtuesday.org

DECEMBER:

All month: Thanks to The Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation, AmeriHealth Caritas and Smith's Food and Drug Stores, your gift to Roadrunner Food Bank in December will be matched — dollar for dollar — up to \$135,000! Gifts received after the campaign or in excess of this amount will not be matched but will still help provide food for those in need.

All month: Purchase our holiday card packages and inserts for all your recipients this giving season. Visit www.rrfb.org/cards for ordering details or call 505.349.8909. Or use the form enclosed to order your cards and send it in before the Dec.19 deadline!

20th: Register to volunteer at our special holiday drive through mobile food pantry distribution at EXPO NM located at 300 San Pedro Dr. NE in Albuquerque. Visit www.rrfb.org/volunteer for more information and www.rrfb.org/find-food for details about food help in your area.

Through 31st: Four Peaks and Premier Distributing will donate 50 cents per case for all Wow Wheat beers purchased through Dec. 31 to Roadrunner Food Bank.

FEBRUARY:

4th: Souper Bowl 2023. We are hopeful our annual soup and dessert sampling event will return. The staff is determining if we can move forward with a 2023 event. Check back at rrfb.org/souperbowl to stay informed or sign up for our email at rrfb.org/email to receive updates.

ANYTIME:

Bring hams, turkeys or other food donations to our Albuquerque location, Mon-Fri. from 8 am to 4 pm or Sat. from 8 am to 2 pm. Or find one of our partners near you at www.rrfb.org/find-help. Enter your zip code in the "Search by Name or Zip Code" field just above the map to see a list in your community.

Schedule an online fund drive for your organization, business, or faith community. Visit rrfb.org/ofd for details to get started. Contact info@rrfb.org or call 505.349.8909 for questions.

Volunteer for a shift in our warehouse! Slots are available Mon-Sat. Register online at rrfb.org/volunteer or call 505.349.5358.

Register your Smith's Shopper's Card for their Inspiring Donations Program. Be sure to select your charity and Smith's will donate 0.5 percent of all eligible spending to your selected charity. Visit www.rrfb.org/smiths for details.

Give the Gift of Stock

When you transfer appreciated assets to Roadrunner Food Bank, you avoid paying capital gains tax and become eligible to take a charitable deduction for the entire donation amount — if you itemize deductions and own the stock for at least one year. Using the free online tool, courtesy of our partner FreeWill, only takes a couple of minutes to access account information to share with a broker or fill out the forms online to complete the gift electronically. Learn more and get started by opening your phone's camera and scanning the code or visiting www.rrfb.org/stock.

