

THE ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP

FALL 2026



PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



The Community Behind the Mission

When people think about volunteering at Roadrunner Food Bank, they often picture sorting food in the warehouse or preparing boxes for distribution. While those tasks are essential, volunteerism at Roadrunner is about more than service hours. It is about neighbors helping neighbors, building connections and creating hope across New Mexico. Volunteers support nearly every aspect of our mission — from warehouse operations and food distributions to pantry services, reception, administrative projects and special initiatives that help us serve more people.

Roadrunner volunteers come from all walks of life: students exploring career paths, families giving back together, retirees sharing their experience and employee groups seeking meaningful ways to make a difference. Each person brings skills, perspective and energy that strengthen our work and expand our impact.

"Volunteering has totally enriched my life, especially directly serving community members in the pantry or at distributions. It's a wonderful feeling knowing you are contributing to the lives and needs of others."

— Michele Guttman

For many volunteers, the rewards extend beyond a completed shift. Volunteering creates opportunities to meet new people, better understand food insecurity and see firsthand the difference collective action can make. Those experiences often inspire volunteers to return again and again, becoming an important part of the Roadrunner family.

"Whether I'm volunteering in the warehouse or helping at a food distribution, I see firsthand the volume of effort it takes to get food to communities across New Mexico. Seeing both the need and the impact — and knowing your work plays a part in meeting that need — is incredible."

— Amy Turner

This year, tens of thousands of volunteer hours have helped Roadrunner advance food access throughout New Mexico. Yet the true value of volunteerism cannot be measured by numbers alone. Behind every hour served is a person who chose to care, act and be part of the solution. As we enter this season of gratitude, we celebrate not only the work volunteers accomplish but also the compassion, community and hope they bring to our mission. Together, they help ensure that every New Mexican has nutritious food to eat — one act of service at a time.



Message from the President & CEO

As October arrives, we're reminded that the holiday season is just around the corner — a time when our community comes together in remarkable ways to ensure no neighbor experiences hunger.

Each year, we prepare for our special holiday food distributions - which are in addition to all of our regular food distributions - knowing they traditionally bring significantly higher numbers of families seeking assistance. This year, however, the reality is different. Across our network, we've experienced a sustained 29% increase in the number of New Mexicans turning to us for help. In November 2025, our network served 75,761 individuals, and our FY26 monthly average now stands at 73,660 people — up from a monthly average of 52,875 in FY25. Those numbers tell a powerful story: what used to be “holiday-level” demand has become our new normal. Every distribution day now feels like a holiday distribution, and we hear the same from many of our hunger-relief agency partners throughout the state.

But, while the need has grown, so has our determination — and the generosity of this community continues to inspire us.

As we enter the season when many people choose to volunteer, organize food drives and make charitable gifts, I invite you to join us. Every hour volunteered helps us distribute food more efficiently, every donated item fills a pantry shelf and every dollar enables us to provide nutritious meals to neighbors facing food insecurity.

Together, we can ensure every family has a place at the table and the dignity of knowing their community cares. Thank you for standing with us throughout the year. Your compassion and generosity make it possible for us to meet today's unprecedented needs and bring hope to hundreds of thousands of our neighbors.

Dana Yost
President and CEO

Bridging the Summer Hunger Gap

This year we launched our first-ever Summer Feeding program, which is a national nutrition program from the US Department of Agriculture, to ensure children have access to nutritious meals during the summer when school is out. The program is typically operated in municipalities, where distributions can be based in parks, community centers, or other neighborhood locations. In southern New Mexico, where there are fewer options for summer congregate spaces for children, we adapted the Summer Feeding distribution into a car-side delivery in three rural locations: To'Hajiilee, located about 40 miles west of Albuquerque; Columbus, near the U.S.-Mexico border; and Elephant Butte located in New Mexico's southwest Sierra County.

Across these three sites, we served 14,126 meals over 45 days, averaging 314 meals per day, nearly four times the projected participation rate.

The program's success was due in large part to the expansion of Roadrunner Food Bank operations in Las Cruces, which afforded us the resources, staffing, and transportation needed to offer this program.

“We have the trucks, the reach, and the distribution route to reach kids who would never have seen a summer feeding program before.”

— Sarah Aragon, Chief Programs Officer



In just the month of June, we fed more than 5,000 children in Columbus, Elephant Butte, and To'Hajiilee.



Community Resource Center Expands Services Into Health Navigation

The Community Resource Center in Albuquerque is celebrating one year of operations! Since opening our doors last summer, staff and volunteers at the CRC have distributed over one million pounds of fresh food to neighbors through the on-site Food Pantry. In our second year of service, we are headed in a new, exciting direction to bring even more assistance to New Mexicans facing the economic disparities surrounding hunger.

Recognizing how neighbors must troubleshoot and navigate many systems and challenges related to hunger, the CRC expanded program services to include needs assessments to screen for chronic conditions and eligibility for state benefits, like food assistance through SNAP or WIC. Our new community health navigators also help with job referrals, utility assistance vouchers and even housing applications.

“The goal is to help people stabilize and not need the Food Pantry as much,” said Sarah Aragon, Chief Programs Officer at Roadrunner Food Bank. “Housing is the number one need of those who visit the pantry. If we can help one person with rental assistance or any other way, they go from needing a food pantry every week to maybe twice a month. That’s our goal with our new programming.”

Evolving the CRC into a holistic service model that addresses the intersecting challenges of food insecurity is a first-of-its-kind endeavor for a food bank. Some organizations have expanded offerings that prescribe nutritious foods to individuals to manage and treat chronic health conditions, but our health navigators are leading the way in offering even more wraparound services.

Neighbors meet one-on-one with a navigator in appointments specifically centered around resource navigation. Together, they determine what resources are needed (like food assistance, counseling in digital technology or online navigation, mental health referral, or job placement), what they qualify for and how to access those resources.

“A lot of what my team will do is that one-on-one work, but we also help in the background and take some of the legwork off our neighbors,” said Shannon Hudson, Community Resources and Benefits Manager. “Finding rental assistance can take hours of someone’s day, and us doing that legwork gives that time back to them.”



FOOD SECURITY FORUM

Coalition to End Hunger in New Mexico

Roadrunner Food Bank and the Coalition to End Hunger in New Mexico convened a nonpartisan gubernatorial forum, bringing together candidates for Governor of New Mexico Deb Haaland and Gregg Hull to discuss food security in the state. They were asked a series of questions on how food systems and food security intersect with agriculture, economic opportunity, public health, and community stability.

As an opportunity for candidates to engage directly on the policies shaping New Mexico’s food systems and the communities most impacted by food insecurity, the forum ensured voters have access to thoughtful, issue-based dialogue ahead of the 2026 gubernatorial election.

The forum was livestreamed and attended by an audience of food professionals, policymakers, advocates, and members of the public.

A Sampling of Forum Questions:

moderated by Megan Kamerick of KUNM

1. Agriculture is a crucial part of our economy and local food system. How would your administration evaluate and prioritize funding for these agricultural programs?
2. Food insecurity and poor health often go hand in hand. With impending Medicaid cuts and ongoing healthcare access challenges, what strategies would you support to improve access to nutritious food through healthcare and other community-based programs?

See the candidates’ answers on our Roadrunner Food Bank YouTube channel!

Drive Change With Us: Cartober 2026 is Here!

This October, in collaboration with Charitable Adult Rides and Services (CARS), we are inviting our supporters to contribute to our mission by donating their unwanted vehicles during Cartober. Every car can drive change! The proceeds from donated vehicles help us further our food security goals and impact in communities across New Mexico. And it won't require anything more from you: we pick it up for free, and we supply all the necessary paperwork for your tax-deductible gift.

What is Cartober?

Cartober is an online giving campaign held throughout the month of October to showcase the power of vehicle donations for nonprofits. Whether it's a car, truck, RV, motorcycle, or boat, Cartober encourages people to donate their unwanted vehicles to their favorite nonprofits.

How You Can Get Involved

There are several ways you can get involved in Cartober and support our cause:

1. **Donate Your Vehicle:** If you have an unwanted car, truck, RV, motorcycle, or boat, consider donating it to Roadrunner Food Bank during Cartober. Your vehicle donation will directly support our programs and initiatives.
2. **Spread the Word:** Share information about Cartober on social media and encourage your friends and family to participate.

Why Cartober Matters

Cartober isn't just about giving vehicles — it's about giving back to our community and driving positive change. By participating in Cartober, you can make a real difference in bringing food security to communities across New Mexico.

 Cartober



Hunger Action Month Takes the Cake!

Every September for Hunger Action Month, with food banks nationwide, Roadrunner Food Bank activates around collective action to end hunger in New Mexico, where 1 in 6 people are food insecure.



In New Mexico, and across the country, families are feeling the pressure of rising food costs and tight budgets. Hunger Action Month is filled with unique opportunities for our community to raise awareness and take action to help our neighbors who need it.

Every action is a piece of the solution and our 2026 community partnerships show how our individual efforts become part of a larger movement when we all come together.

Together we:

- Served hunger action to-go with over 1,500 orange coffee sleeves distributed through 14 Albuquerque coffee shops. The bold orange departure from standard muted sleeves signaling to “Act Now, End Hunger”, reached offices, schools, shops, and beyond.
- Held 15 corporate and community food drives, including the “Stuff the Train Food Drive” with Rio Metro Regional Transit who gave a free Rail Runner Express day-pass for each donation.
- Engaged with national partnerships with Pappadeux Seafood Kitchen, Chik-Fil-A, and Kroger.
- Doubled donations with a September donation match from the Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation.
- Had some fun! Our beloved mascot Roadie invited all to their very first birthday party! Their birthday wish for our neighbors to help each other came true and we had music, food, games, and cake to celebrate all we accomplished together this Hunger Action Month!



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