



# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

TO  
THE

# COMMUNITY

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Community,

As you no doubt experienced in your own life, 2021 was an unsettling year. For the community members that we serve, the disruptions due to COVID-19 and food price inflation have brought additional hardships. As an organization, we have faced challenges from food price inflation to the impact of the pandemic on fundraising and volunteer recruitment. Despite this, the mantra of Casa de Peregrinos for the year 2021 was “always move forward”. Our commitment

to always move forward drove us to provide new services to groups in particular need of assistance, to provide more meals to those in need than ever before, and to conduct the planning and development efforts that will ensure that Casa de Peregrinos can sustainably continue its work towards ending hunger.

As the volunteers and staff who labor in our Las Cruces pantry can attest to, our main facility is stretched to its limits. This is a testament to the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and staff—we are serving more families and more meals than was ever thought possible. And yet, hunger still exists in our community, and our current infrastructure limits our reach and scope. We are proud to announce that Casa de Peregrinos and our partners at the City of Las Cruces have completed the planning and design for a new home base for the organization. The former Horse ‘N Hound complex is now a part of the Community of Hope campus and will be the site for a new CdP warehouse, distribution center, and location where we will serve the community. This will enable us to expand our reach, offer new services, provide a better experience for our volunteers, and reduce some of the barriers to access that our clients in need face. We are on track to complete construction and cut the ribbon before the close of 2022. For this, we are very thankful for the support we have received from the city, county, state, and our donors.

Another way in which we have endeavored to always move forward is by redoubling our efforts to reach more families and community members in need. This year we added five new sites for food distribution. We provided an additional 281,141 meals in 2021 compared to 2020. This brings the total number of meals provided in the last ten years to over 24 million. Seeking to always move forward, we conducted an extensive survey of volunteers, employees, and community

partners to reflect on how we can better serve our community. Through this process, we realized that it was time to revisit our mission statement and to develop a formal vision statement for CdP. While our motto “Food for today, hope for tomorrow” remains the same, we have updated our mission and vision to better reflect where we need to go. This includes new programs such as a food pharmacy, a home delivery program, and the expansion of pantries in the north and south valleys. After much discussion and consideration, the Board of Directors has adopted the following Vision and Mission statements:

## VISION

Casa de Peregrinos’ vision is to create a hunger-free community. We will create a sustainable system of food distribution throughout the region of Southern NM, collaborating with volunteers, donors, staff, other non-profits, government agencies, and private partners to responsibly empower individuals, families, and communities through the delivery of innovative nutritional food programs.

## MISSION

Casa de Peregrinos’ mission is to end hunger while mobilizing resources that build strong, diverse, and inclusive relationships and partnerships in the community.

## MOTTO

Food for today, hope for tomorrow.

## OUR COMMITMENT

We will never turn clients away, and there will never be a waiting list at CdP. Despite the trials that the past year has brought, Casa de Peregrinos continues to be sustained by the time, talent, and treasure that so many community members contribute. Speaking for the Board of Directors, we owe special thanks to the staff and volunteers that have worked tirelessly to distribute more food than ever while enduring the challenges of this second year of the pandemic. We owe special thanks to our donors, whose monetary contributions literally translate to meals provided for families and individuals in need. And finally, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their commitment of countless hours and first-rate expertise in advising and leading this organization.

With our best wishes for a joyful New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Patrick Trainor, PhD, MS, MA

Board President, Casa de Peregrinos

# MOVING FORWARD DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

COVID – 19 pandemic continues to impact CdP and the families it serves. The food insecurity caused by the pandemic and its resultant unemployment and economic unrest has not gone away. New Mexico Voices for Children reports in its “Kids Count” that as many as 34% of New Mexican children were food insecure in 2020, compared to 24% in 2018. 51% of adults in households with children had lost employment income since March 2020.

While there was some improvement in unemployment in 2021, the Las Cruces unemployment rate was still 7.9% in June. This represents some improvement, but about 6,000 individuals are still filing for unemployment insurance in Doña Ana County. Service and construction remain the most heavily impacted.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to impact CdP, and food banks and pantries across the nation. “Rising cost of food and ongoing challenges with the supply chain is making it

more expensive for food banks to purchase food and even move donated food across this country,” said Katie Fitzgerald, chief operating officer of Feeding America. Low inventory, supply chain disruption, and labor shortages are creating bottlenecks that contributed to increased costs for charities. “We are concerned about the fact that emergency funding and other sorts of supports that the federal government has put into place are starting to go away at the same time,” Fitzgerald explained in an interview with CNN. “When food prices rise, so does food insecurity,” she said. “We still have 38 million Americans who are food insecure here in this country.”

Because of the upsurge of first the delta and then the omicron variants, CdP continued to use the COVID safety measures it developed in 2020 throughout 2021, and it will continue to do so until CDC guidance indicates they are no longer necessary:

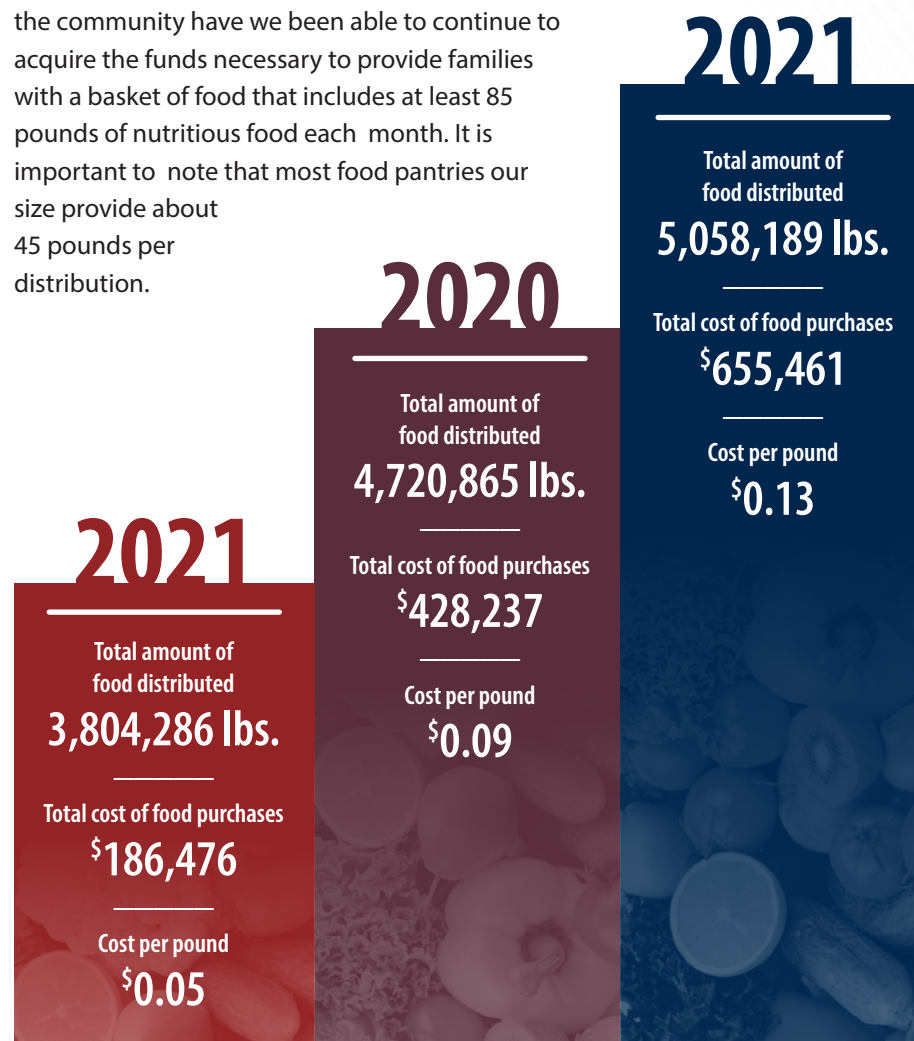
- **RESTRICTING THE NUMBERS** of volunteers and clients inside the facility.
- **TAKING AGGRESSIVE SANITIZING** and disinfecting precautions.
- **REQUIRING UNIVERSAL MASK** wearing for staff, volunteers, visitors, and clients.
- **REQUIRING DAILY TEMPERATURE CHECKS** for staff and volunteers.
- **USING A PROFESSIONAL DISINFECTING SERVICE** to deep-clean the pantry twice per week.

## MOVING FORWARD DESPITE INFLATION

Just as inflation is crippling families across America, it is hampering Casa de Peregrinos in its efforts to provide food. According to the US Department of Labor, the consumer price index jumped 7% last year, 6.3% for groceries.

Over the last two years Casa de Peregrinos has seen the cost of food almost triple, despite all our efforts to acquire low and no-cost groceries.

Only through the generosity of our funders and the community have we been able to continue to acquire the funds necessary to provide families with a basket of food that includes at least 85 pounds of nutritious food each month. It is important to note that most food pantries our size provide about 45 pounds per distribution.





## MOVING FORWARD WITHOUT FUNDRAISING EVENTS

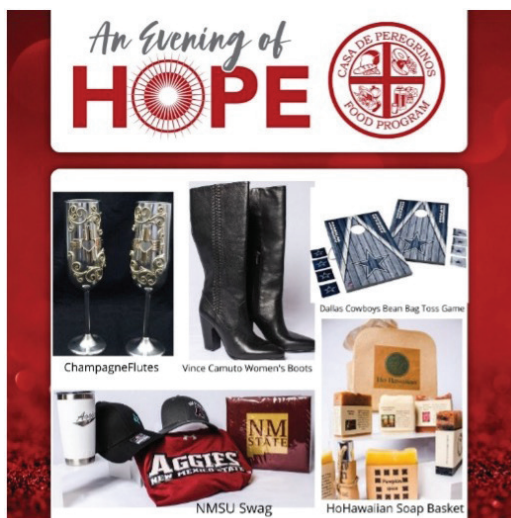
The cancellation of in-person fundraising events first seen in 2020 continued throughout 2021. None of the three big events CdP has come to rely on occurred in 2021 – Taste of Las Cruces, Stamp Out Hunger, and the Bataan Death March Food Drive all remained dark, causing a major impact on our budget. These three events together accounted for about \$17,000, and almost 100,000 pounds of food.

CdP has been able to effectively shift its event fundraising focus to “virtual” events and was extremely successful in this effort. Two online events generated not only cash but valuable publicity and opportunities for outreach and advocacy.

With the assistance of Mesilla Valley Estate Sales, “An Evening of Hope” debuted in May of 2021, an online auction with over 120 donations of gift cards, local events, pieces of art, and other treasures which generated over \$21,000.

And, in September for the third year in a row, CdP sponsored its signature event, the “Hunger Strike” a 24-hour voluntary fast to raise funds and awareness of hunger in our community.

Participants commit to fasting for a 24-hour period, advertise their



participation to their friends and family, and ask for their financial support. Five Hunger Strikers initiated this event in 2019, raising \$24,000.

The Hunger Strike continues to capture the imagination of the community, growing exponentially every year. From 5 participants in 2019, 2020 drew in 20 Hunger Strikers. In 2021, that number grew to 87. Teams from worksites, families, groups of friends all joined the effort – voluntarily undertaking a situation that many families face every week without a choice.

The 2020 Hunger Strike generated \$30,665, a significant increase from 2019, but, in 2021, it raised over \$51,000, generated important public exposure, and for many of the participants, created an increased understanding of what their neighbors experience on a regular basis.

## MOVING FORWARD DESPITE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Due to the need for social distancing, and considering the increased susceptibility of seniors to COVID – 19, in April 2020, we asked our over-60 volunteers not to come in. Considering how many of our distribution staff are retirees, this made a considerable impact on CdP operations. With a new volunteer coordinator, Teresa Sanchez, who is a volunteer herself, and a strong outreach effort to both former volunteers and service clubs and organizations, 2021 saw many come back, and many new volunteers joining them. With a distribution system that assures social distancing and personal protection, the number of volunteer hours reported in 2021 even exceeds that of 2019, before the pandemic began.





# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021

## SECURED FUNDING TO COMPLETE OUR BUILDING

When the City of Las Cruces purchased the Horse 'N Hound building on Amador in March of 2020 for CdP's use as a warehouse and distribution facility, CdP's efforts redoubled to acquire the funding to make the building fit our needs. We approached the New Mexico Legislature in January of 2021 with a request for Capital Investment Funds, and, with the support of our local delegation (Senators Hamblen, Steinborn, and Soules, and Representatives Cadena, Ferrary, Rubio, Madrid, Small, and Gallegos) we were granted \$1,839,000. Subsequent grants of \$350,000 from the City of Las Cruces Community Development Block Grant funding, and a \$3.75 million grant from the Las Cruces City Council brought us over the top.

We are humbled by the faith that our local legislative delegation and our city council have placed in us, and we will work hard to continue to deserve their trust. By the end of 2021, the design has been finished, the bidding process is complete, and a contractor has been selected by the City of Las Cruces. Construction is scheduled to begin March 2022, and, with an estimated 12-month

construction schedule, we are well on our way to a March 2023 ribbon cutting and moving into our new home.

## LAUNCHED A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND ART PROJECT

Our goal for our new offices has always been to have a bright, welcoming, inclusive, and simple space. We have no need for fancy furniture, but we want a place that will bring a smile to the faces of clients, volunteers, and staff as they enter. We feel community art is one of the best ways to generate that response.

As part of this goal, we're launching a mural project to recognize donors and provide focal points for the interior and the exterior of the building. We will be developing the murals through a juried contest inviting local artists to create works that give an inspiring visual representation of the mission, goals, and history of Casa de Peregrinos, provide a visual connection to the community and geography of the Mesilla Valley, the Borderlands, and Doña Ana County, and provide an uplifting visual experience to all those visiting Casa de Peregrinos.

The inside mural will include a donor recognition feature, where the names

of contributors to the capital campaign will be highlighted. We'll be forming a selection committee to choose the designs, at which point, the specifics will be widely circulated to all our volunteers, donors, and supporters.

## INVESTED IN OUR FUTURE

Endowments are funds that earn income from investments, allowing the original assets to grow over time as a result of income earned from the invested funds. The investment is not a source of operating or capital funds, nor is it a cash account.

On December 13, 2013, our Executive Director, Lorenzo Alba, Jr. and eight board members of Casa de Peregrinos made the significant decision to create an endowment account at the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, opening this fund with a total of \$3,200 of their personal money. Even though funding for operating programs was scarce and hard to come by, the Board recognized the need to set aside funds to assure future stability.

By 2018, CdP's endowment had

grown to over \$13,000. That year, an anonymous donor offered a \$10,000 matching gift, and, the same year, CdP made a commitment to delegate a percentage of its non-designated revenue to the CFSNM endowment. Since then, the endowment has continued to grow through individual contributions and matching grants.

In 2021, Casa de Peregrinos lost a dear friend and supporter, Rene "El Indio" Castillo, owner of El Indio Tortilla Shop. Twice per week, Rene would personally deliver tortillas to the pantry, fresh from his ovens on Madrid St. His loss hit us hard. Sr. Castillo's family made the decision after his death to make a matching gift of \$50,000 to the CdP endowment to recognize how much the food pantry meant to him, and to inspire others to make an investment in CdP's future security. With the completion of the match, our endowment will reach nearly \$300,000. This contribution by our valued community partner will help assure CdP's future financial security. Thank you, and RIP, dear Sr. Castillo. Your legacy will live on with us.



## PROFESSIONALIZED OUR STAFFING STRUCTURE

Casa de Peregrinos has always operated on a shoe-string staff, with many positions part-time, many temporary or seasonal, and all with limited benefits. The outpouring of volunteer assistance has made this possible and has allowed CdP to invest an overwhelming amount of its resources in the purchase of food.

The COVID – 19 pandemic, as well as our overall growth, has opened our eyes to the reality that an organization of our reach and size cannot sustain this staffing model. Over the last two years, CdP has made systematic efforts to professionalize its' staffing – creating a Board standing committee to review and revise our personnel systems and policies. Through their work, CdP has upgraded two of our essential program staff to full-time, investing in management training, and is, as a part of the strategic planning process, developing a benefits package for staff to help compensate for the exceptional effort they make to serve our clients.

## INCREASED OUR EFFORTS TO SERVE REMOTE, RURAL COMMUNITIES

Doña Ana County has extremely high levels of poverty and food insecurity: overall, Doña Ana County has a poverty rate of 24%. But the residents of the rural communities outside Las Cruces experience hunger, poverty, and food insecurity at a much higher

rate than within the city. In the remote northern area of the county, poverty reaches 58%. In Sunland Park, bordering Texas and Mexico, the poverty rate is 46.2%. Anapra (adjacent to Sunland Park) is among the poorest communities in the United States, with an income lower than 93.7% of U.S. neighborhoods and a higher rate of childhood poverty than 93.8%.

CdP currently operates 13 mobile food pantries through the Rural Food Initiative. They provide a valuable service to the families in the rural areas, but they are limited in what they can do. Mobile pantries occur monthly and are scheduled during the middle of the day. Many people, because of transportation challenges, work conflicts, childcare issues, and other factors are unable to get to the mobile pantries. Of the 110,000 people in the rural areas, approximately 40% (44,000) are living in poverty. This year, the rural pantries were able to serve a total of 5,474 unique clients. This is a gap that CdP has long been aware of and seeking to close.

Our work in the rural communities in 2021 included both increased distribution and emergency response. On August 12, 2021, a total of 5.88 inches fell in La Union over the space of 24 hours, flooding farm lands and homes, destroying roadways and structures, causing water outages for about 426 residents and evacuations for 100 more. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico responded with the "Together La Union" fund to assist residents, businesses and community

partners in flood mitigation, repair and clean up. CdP served as one of the partners in the response, organizing food and water distributions in La Union, which helped provide relief to 180 people.

In 2021 CdP made a concerted effort to increase our Thanksgiving program outreach into the rural communities. Working with partners such as the Southern New Mexico Project, (an all-volunteer project which involves several initiatives for low-income families in the southern part of Doña Ana County) Flores, Tawney, and Acosta, LLC, and Doña Ana County, we were able to distribute over 1,000 turkey baskets to residents of the rural areas.

CdP has also partnered with The Southern New Mexico Project to distribute food, and, in 2021, the City of Sunland Park announced that it is requesting funding through the Capital Investment Program to open a pantry in Sunland Park that will be able to provide more convenient hours for families in that area. We are seeking similar opportunities in the Hatch Valley region.

## BROUGHT HOPE TO FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

CdP has provided a Thanksgiving dinner basket since its earliest days (the first time was in 1997, when 100 turkeys were distributed). This program has grown to become one of the most cherished of all CdP's services, as it allows families to celebrate the holidays in their own homes, without feeling pressured by the cost of a festive meal. This program has increased every year, up to 3,800 in 2020.

However, in 2021, inflation and supply chain issues saw CdP facing an enormous challenge with the Thanksgiving program: turkeys, which we had purchased for \$.50 per pound in 2019, were selling for nearly twice that cost if they were available at all. We budgeted \$60,000 for the event, but by mid-October, it was clear that we were facing the choice of either spending over \$130,000 (in cash and in-kind contributions) or limiting participation.



*Ready for turkey distribution at the Pan Am Center parking lot*



Thanks to several major corporate sponsors (Western Sky, El Paso Electric, United Healthcare, Electronic Caregiver, WellMed, Flores Tawney and Acosta, Lesson of Life of Life, Ms. Frances Williams, Electronic Caregiver, Rincon de Amigos Insurance Company, Elks Lodge #1119, Century Bank, and Presbyterian Healthcare Services) CdP was able to provide 4,553 turkey baskets this year, over 1,000 of which were distributed in the rural areas. Over 15,000 people benefitted from this event.

Community food drives also fueled this effort: The Bandidos, Soldados, Stryx, Embudos, Bomb First, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Rifa, Clean and Sober, Guardians of the Children motorcycle clubs, the VFW 10124, First Light FCU, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Chi, and Zeta Phi Fraternities at NMSU, Hot 103 Pack the Van, Santiago and Family, Anelise and Family, Protect NM, Edward Jones, Valley Homes, Best Buy, and The Vietnam Veterans of America #431 all conducted food drives and fundraisers to help fund the Thanksgiving program.

## HAD AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY "SANTA"

In mid-November, Albertsons, a long time, generous supporter of CdP, contacted us with the offer of over 1,000 - \$50 gift cards to their stores, on the condition that we distribute them before the holidays. These went out through our regular pantries, and with them, allowed clients the option

of getting essential items not available with food stamps, like cleaning products and toiletries, additional food, or anything else that Albertson's sells. Staff reported that they "felt like Santa", and clients were teary eyed with gratitude. We are grateful for this windfall.

## EXPANDED THE HEALTHY SNACK BAR PROGRAM

Kids get hungry during the day, and, when their blood sugar drops, they lose the ability to concentrate on their schoolwork. CdP has expanded its vision of addressing child hunger by providing "Healthy Snack Bars" in low-income schools—featuring items like granola bars, breakfast bars, mixed nuts and fruits, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and peanut butter. The Healthy Snack Bar is open every day after 4th period: in the middle of the afternoon when hunger is most likely to distract children from learning. This effort is a part of the Community Schools initiative which draws on community resources to improve student learning and facilitate stronger families and healthier communities.

There are five Community Schools in Las Cruces, Lynn Middle School, Booker T. Washington Elementary, MacArthur Elementary Doña Ana Elementary, and Alameda Elementary School, providing services to 2,200 students. In 2021, Casa de Peregrinos began providing Healthy Snack Bars at each. Promoting children's nutrition and health is at the forefront of CdP's mission because of the huge negative impact that hunger can have on a child's ability to succeed in later life.

## HELPED RECENTLY HOMELESS CLIENTS TRANSITION TO STABILITY

In August of 2021, Community of Hope opened the Desert Hope Apartments, a project that aims to contribute to stopping the cycle of homelessness. It is leasing its 40 furnished units to people experiencing homelessness, charging them affordable rent and connecting them with supplementary wraparound services, helping to build independent living and tenancy skills. CdP is pleased to be providing an on-site food pantry as a part of this community collaboration.

## INCREASED OUR SERVICE LOCATIONS

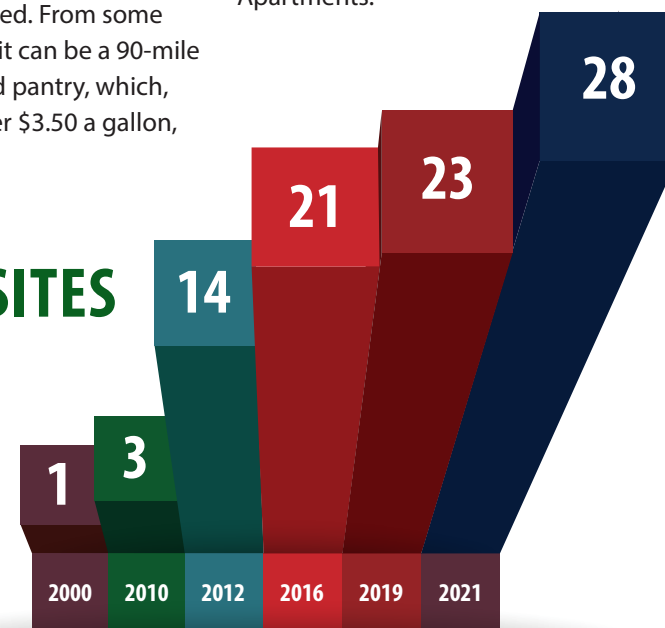
The surface area of Doña Ana County consists of nearly 4,000 square miles, larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. From some places in the county, it can be a 90-mile round trip to the food pantry, which, with gas prices at over \$3.50 a gallon,



*Desert Hope Apartments*

presents a considerable burden on low-income families. CdP has, throughout its history, sought to bring food to where it is needed, beginning in 2011 with the creation of 13 Mobile Food Pantries in rural communities. Senior pantries and student pantries began to be added in 2016, and in 2021, CdP made another major step towards regional food distribution, increasing our service sites from 23 to 28. This includes thirteen rural pantries, five senior pantries, three college pantries, Healthy Snack Bars in five community schools, and our pantry in Desert Hope Apartments.

## SERVICE SITES BY YEAR



# LOOKING FORWARD GOALS FOR 2022

Casa de Peregrinos has always been committed to defining its own future. We've seen over the last 20 months the tumultuous effects of outside circumstances, and through hard work, creativity, and the loyalty of our supporters, have maintained our commitment to "alleviate hunger in our community through the acquisition and distribution of nutritious food", and have managed to meet the increased demand, and even increase programs for underserved populations. But COVID has shown us how situations beyond our control can change our reality, and has re-emphasized the need to have a strategic plan to keep our "eyes on the prize".

In 2022 CdP is using a strategic planning process to define one-year, three-year and five-year goals and strategies. With this tool, we can maximize our human and financial resources to have the greatest impact on hunger and poverty, and to be able to enhance our services so as to better sustain the families that depend on us. We are seeking to create a food distribution system that offers significant opportunities to

provide better service to clients, serve more clients, and give CdP the opportunity to more fully address our motto, "Food for today, hope for tomorrow" by providing other services to our clients to help them escape systemic, generational poverty. As we adapt to new realities the future brings, these will, of course, adjust, but we will be using the strategic plan as the guidepost for everything we do. Some strategies and activities have already been put in place for 2022.

## FINALIZING THE NEW BUILDING

2022 will see the groundbreaking, remodeling, ribbon-cutting and move-in at Casa de Peregrinos new headquarters, and it will be the most important activity in which we engage this year. This is monumental – the culmination of a dream conceived in 2015 by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director. That year, our warehouse and distribution system designed to distribute 500,000 pounds of food per year became increasingly overwhelmed by the demand as we gave out 2 million pounds of food, a situation which has increased every year.

This six-year journey first saw fruition in 2018 with a grant from the New Mexico Legislature's Capital Investment Fund of \$85,500, and since then has raised the needed \$8 million for the remodeling to convert it to a food pantry. The new building, and how we finalize it, will define Casa de Peregrinos for decades.

## HOME DELIVERY FOR HOMEBOUND CLIENTS

One of the most heartbreaking things about the COVID – 19 pandemic has been the fact that we know some clients have been unable to come to the pantry for food. Whether it has been because of a lack of transportation, illness, quarantine, lack of childcare, or other factors, we are not serving this segment of the population.

2022 will see a whole new program at CdP, a home-delivered food program for homebound clients. Although this will be a limited venture, due to the increased cost of home deliveries, we feel it will reach a group of families desperately in need of nutritious food.

## DRIVE-UP SERVICES

CdP has long been seeking ways to make our services more accessible to more families. We recognize that a trip to the pantry can be time-consuming, sometimes taking hours, as clients need to sign in, wait for an available interview volunteer, complete the interview, and then wait for a cart to be assembled. This can especially be a burden for clients with children, or those trying to get to the pantry during a break from work.

In 2022, drive-up service will be offered in coordination with an electronic sign-in system. With this upgrade, clients will be able to complete the registration paperwork prior to visiting CdP and will be able to pick up groceries in a matter of minutes. Clients

Food for today

# FOOD IS HOPE

hope for tomorrow

without access to a computer, new clients, or clients with unique needs such as homeless clients, would continue to have the opportunity to receive face-to-face COVID safe service. With an electronic sign-in/drive-up system, we believe many more families will be able to receive nutritious food through CdP.

## FOOD PHARMACY

CdP has always known that nutritious food can help prevent and manage diet-related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. But, chronically ill patients living on a low income face many barriers to healthy eating. They may not have the time or transportation to secure the food they need. And they may not be able to pay for healthy foods, medicine and other medical care, and other expenses.

In 2022, we will be implementing a new program to address this problem more comprehensively: The Food Pharmacy. Clinicians will refer patients to our service, and they will receive a food basket specifically designed to meet their medical needs, nutrition education, and a referral to more community food resources.



## 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

### FOOD BASKETS DISTRIBUTED

Food Security	20,733
Summer Program	3,427
Rural Program	8,321
Student Pantries	1,897
Senior Pantries	2,648
Thanksgiving Baskets	3,800
Healthy Snack Bars	2,200
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>41,479</b>

### CLIENTS SERVED

Food Security	15,160
Summer Program	3,539
Rural Program	5,474
Student Pantries	485
Senior Pantries	1,369
Utility Assistance	1,569
<b>TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED</b>	<b>30,602</b>

### FOOD DISTRIBUTED

Pounds of food donated	72,883
Pounds of food rescued	797,922
Pounds of food purchased	3,850,060

**TOTAL POUNDS OF  
FOOD DISTRIBUTED** **\$8,700,085**

Value of donated food	\$171,472
Value of rescued food	\$1,130,038

**TOTAL VALUE OF  
ACQUIRED FOOD** **\$1,301,510**

### TOTAL NUMBER OF MEALS PROVIDED

(1.2 lbs. of food = one meal)

**4,215,575**

## THE PEOPLE WE SERVED

Casa de Peregrinos served 30,602 unduplicated individuals during 2021 at 28 locations, less than the unprecedented number served in 2020 at the height of the pandemic, (35,752), an increase of about 1,000 from the pre-pandemic numbers of 2019 (29,886). With Doña Ana County having a population of 218,000, this represents over 14% of the people in the county.

***One in every seven individuals living in Doña Ana County came to us for help.***

Clients are low-income individuals and families in Doña Ana County. Client eligibility is established by client self-declaration of income using the New Mexico Emergency Food Assistance Program Guidelines for the Las Cruces MSA. Clients who receive WIC or SNAP

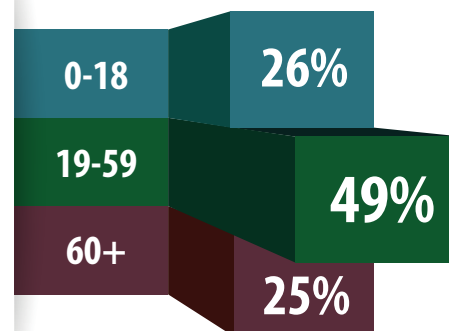
automatically qualify. By ethnicity, the demographics of CdP clients are: Hispanic/Latino: 81%; Caucasian: 16%; African American, 1%, and all other ethnicities make up less than 1% of our clientele. By age, the demographics of CdP's clients is: Under 18: 26%; 18 to 60: 49%; and over 60: 25%.

## THE FOOD WE DISTRIBUTED

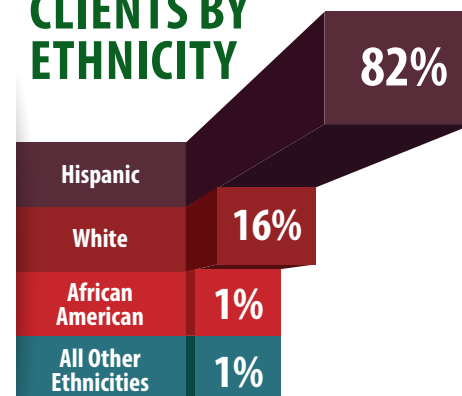
In 2021, Casa de Peregrinos distributed 5,058,189 pounds of food. A pound of donated food is valued at \$1.72 by the USDA. Therefore, Casa de Peregrinos distributed over **\$8.7 million in resources to the community.** As a meal equals 1.2 pounds of food, in 2021, CdP distributed 4,215,157 meals to our community. Looking back over the last ten years, CdP has distributed 29,033,495 pounds of food.

***Of this, in 2021, 659,999 pounds was rescued food, with a value of \$1.1 million.*** Through the Food Rescue

### CLIENTS BY AGE



### CLIENTS BY ETHNICITY



Program, retailers donate perfectly edible food which has passed its “sell-by” date. The Food Rescue Program began in 2013. Since then, CdP has rescued 6,899,190 pounds of food, with a value of \$11.9 million.

## FINANCIALS 2021, FINAL, UNAUDITED

**INCOME: \$1,610,827**

**EXPENDITURES: \$1,344,902**

Our financial support is deep and wide-ranging, but the biggest source of our support has, again this year, come from individual donors. We were overwhelmed at the level of support from individual donors – which increased from \$177,000 in 2019 to over \$530,000 in 2020, and leapt again to over \$700,000 in 2021. Foundations, businesses,

**OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, CDP  
HAS DISTRIBUTED 29,033,455  
POUNDS OF FOOD, THE  
EQUIVALENT OF  
24,195,458 MEALS.**

religious and civic organizations also exceeded previous years’ contributions.

## WE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SERVICES COST-EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY

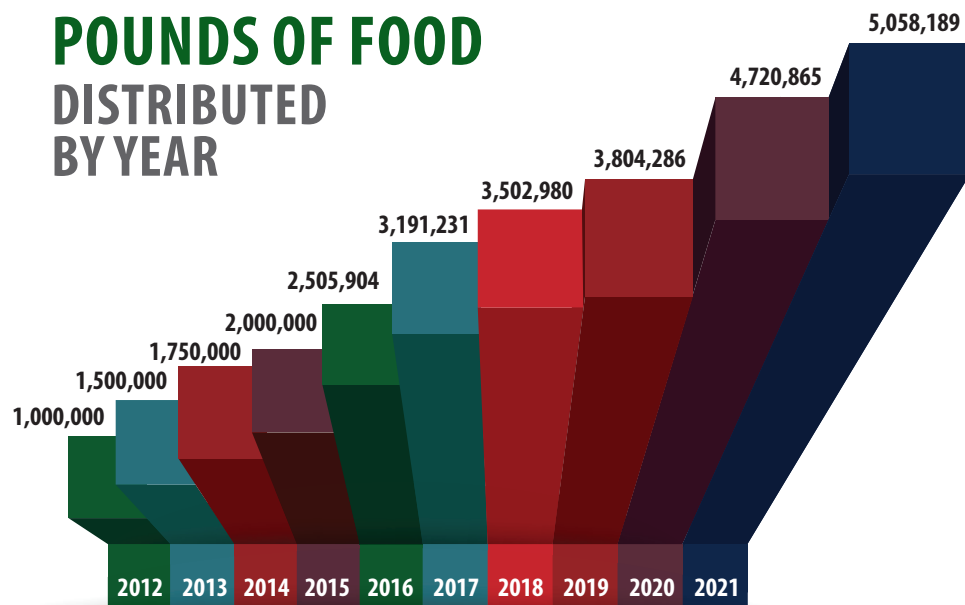
In 2021, the expenditures for Casa de Peregrinos were \$1,344,902 (unaudited figure). Despite increases in the cost of food and increases in personnel costs

due to fewer volunteers, CdP has still been able to distribute 5 pounds of food for every dollar it spends. This is possible only because:

- *We manage innovative programs such as the Food Rescue Program. This program brought in 656,999 pounds of usable food that was destined for landfills.*
- *CdP relies upon dozens of volunteers contributing thousands of hours each year packing and distributing food orders.*
- *Working with Roadrunner Food Bank, we can distribute commodities and other donated food for a small, shared cost of pennies on the dollar.*

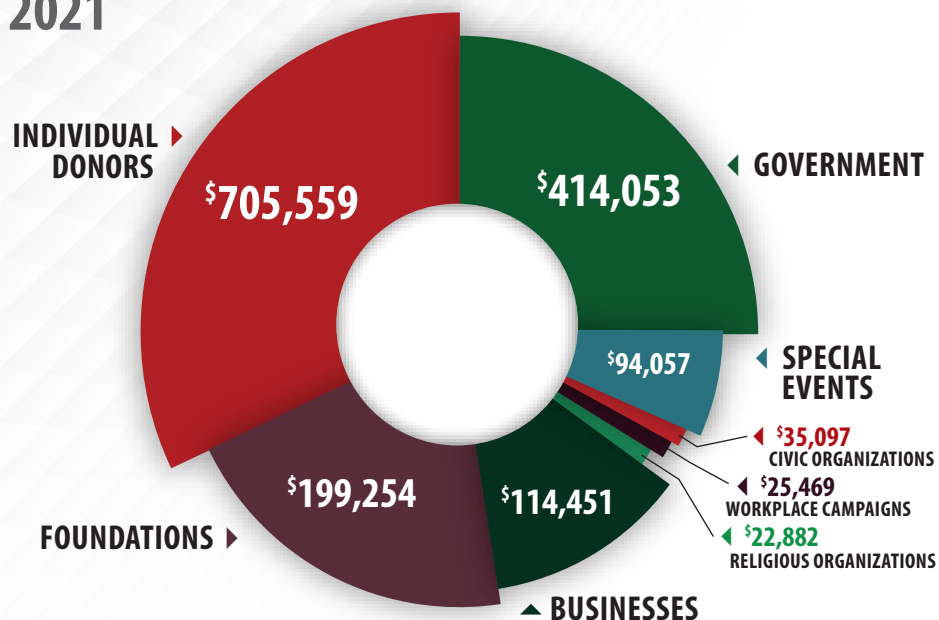
## VOLUNTEERS GAVE THEIR TIME

Volunteers have always been the backbone of the distribution system at CdP, and the gifts of time from our volunteers are as essential as the funding received from our donors. In 2021, volunteers and community service volunteers recorded a total of 12,131 hours at pantries and through board service and committee work. This is the equivalent of 5.8 full-time employees, and, based on Corporation for National and Community Service data showing a volunteer hour in New Mexico being valued at \$19.51, represents a contribution of over \$236,000.

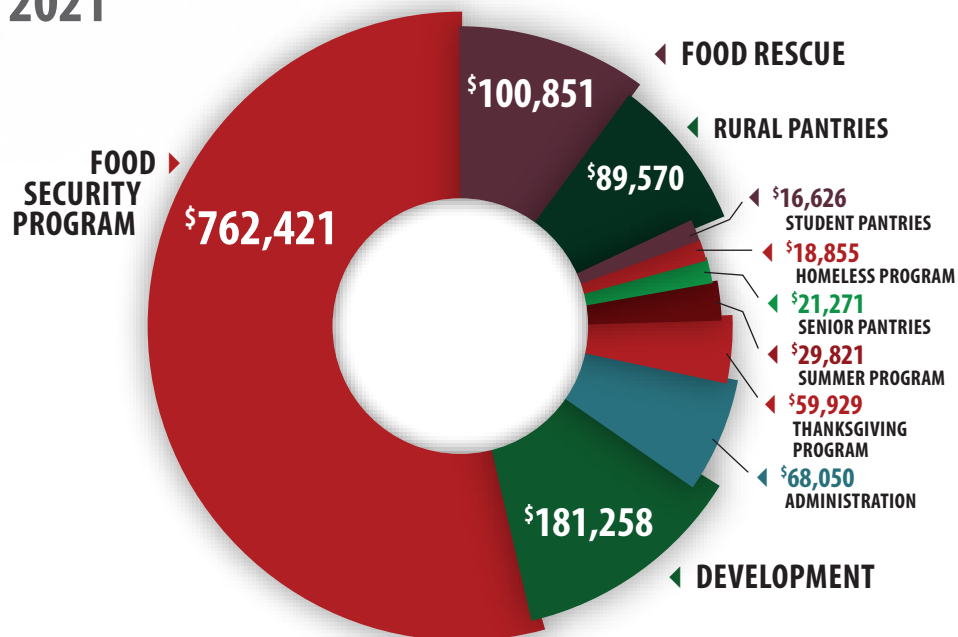




## SOURCES OF REVENUE 2021



## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM 2021



# THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS



# NEW HOME of CASA DE PEREGRINOS



- ✓ TOTAL SPACE EXPANDS FROM 4,000 SQ. FT. TO 12,000 SQ. FT.
- ✓ COLD STORAGE EXPANDS FROM XXX TO XXX CUBIC FEET
- ✓ NUTRITION EDUCATION KITCHEN
- ✓ DRIVE UP WINDOW

- ✓ DRY STORAGE AREA QUADRUPLES
- ✓ CONFERENCE AND TRAINING FACILITIES
- ✓ 6 MORE WORK STATIONS
- ✓ COMMUNITY ART INSIDE AND OUT



## BOARD MEMBERS SERVING DURING 2021

*(listed alphabetically)*

Hortencia Banuelos, Doug Bensen, Zachary Frielino, Antoinette Fuentes, Stephanie Guadian, Sonja Jamilla, Shawn Lonasee, Richard Miernyk, George Miller, Michelle Najar, Tom Packard, MD, Shannon Pestovich, Heather Quiroz, Brandi Rukovena, Nancy Ryan, Cindy Seipel-Tunnell, Ph.D, Yolanda Silva, Patrick Trainor, PhD., Eric Walkinshaw

## STAFF MEMBERS SERVING DURING 2021

Lorenzo Alba, Jr., Diana Alvarez, Rudy Carbajal, Sam Terrazas, Leticia Garcia, Cesar Mauricio, Marco Olivas, Bianca Menchaca, Azhar (Ziggy) Abdul-Khabir, Renae Guterriez, Jasmine Al-Humrani, Bob Witschi, Ilian Garcia, Brenda Gonzalez, Amanda Kmetz, Liana Aguirre and Americorp – SEED Corps members Brittany Nickerson and Ryan Singh



This crew earned us 2nd place as "Best Cause" and runner-up as "Best Non-Profit" in the Las Cruces Bulletin's "Bulletin's Best for 2022".  
**Way to go!**

## CASA DE PEREGRINOS, INC.

999 West Amador Suite F • Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88005

Phone: 575-523-5542 • Email: [cdplascruces@gmail.com](mailto:cdplascruces@gmail.com)

[www.casadeperegrinos.org](http://www.casadeperegrinos.org)

*Office hours: MWF 9:00 to 5:00 or by arrangement on Tuesdays and Thursdays*

DESIGNED & PRINTED BY

