

TASTE OF LAS CRUCES



Returning after a three-year hiatus due to COVID, the 14th Annual Taste of Las Cruces was sold out! Thanks to the three Las Cruces Rotaries, participating restaurants, our table sponsors, and hundreds of guests for making this happen and supporting Casa de Peregrinos!

Mark your calendars and watch for ticket sales information for Taste of Las Cruces 2023. This year, your contributions will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Anderson Charitable Foundation of Austin, Texas.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Pictured here: The line for turkey basket pick-up at the Pan Am Center, 7:00 AM, November 21, 2022

Despite the scarcity and expense of turkeys, CdP was determined to make Thanksgiving joyful for our clients.

Through generous sponsorships from dozens of businesses, food drives, and persistence, we succeeded in distributing 5,168 Thanksgiving baskets, with turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, corn, green beans, and pie filling to provide all the ingredients families needed to celebrate the holiday in their own home.

Of special note: Frances Williams, a long-time supporter of CdP, donated 200 turkeys to this effort. Her contributions over the years have been instrumental to bringing hope for the holidays.

BREAKING GROUND ON THE NEW CDP HEADQUARTERS



Pictured above: CdP Board President Patrick Trainor, Richard Coltharp, Publisher, The Las Cruces Bulletin, Rico Gonzalez, El Paso Electric, CdP Executive Director Lorenzo Alba, and New Mexico State Senator Jeff Steinborn.

The sun shone on the Casa de Peregrinos groundbreaking ceremony in March of 2022. Over 200 people joined in for music, prayers, refreshments, and fellowship as the food pantry takes this monumental step forward.

Renovations are well underway, and we are projecting a June ribbon cutting. Details for the ribbon-cutting ceremony will be posted on the website. We hope you will come!

MURAL PROJECT

We are commissioning a mural for the lobby of the new building to provide an inspiring visual representation of the mission, goals, and history of CdP. The mural will be a visual connection to the community and geography of our area and provide an uplifting visual experience to all visiting our new site. Donors can have a chance to buy a space on this wall! Various options are available for all price ranges. CdP is currently in the process of commissioning a muralist, so watch our website for details. (www.casadeperegrinos.org).



CDP ADDS ANOTHER SNACK BAR FOR THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

In 2022, CdP added Mesilla Elementary School to the list of five Community Schools that provide healthy snacks to students in the middle of the afternoon when they are the most likely to be distracted by hunger. CdP implemented the Healthy Snack Bar program in 2018 at the Lynn Community School and it has now grown to six sites.

CASA DE PEREGRINOS SPONSORS

SUSTAINING PARTNERS



SPONSORS



2022 INTERIM REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88005
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A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

2022 was characterized by inflation, food shortages, and an increased demand for service, but it also saw exciting advancements for Casa de Peregrinos (CdP) in infrastructure improvements, programmatic improvements, and moving our strategic plan forward. This progress is due to a strong, diverse, and hardworking Board, an unequalled staff team that pours its heart into the mission every day, and a volunteer corps that continues to support us in all our endeavors. Our donor base is solid and loyal, and our collaborative relationships continue to enhance our productivity. We are proud of the work we have done this past year, and we are profoundly grateful to our community that makes it possible.

Our report to you is different this year. As CdP has changed over to a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), we won't be putting out our formal annual report until July of 2023. This report reflects a quick snapshot of calendar year 2022, with comparison data provided for 2021, to update you on some of the major accomplishments, challenges, and services for last year.

THE NUMBERS

FINANCIALS (UNAUDITED)	2022	2021
Total revenue	\$1,856,648	\$1,610,022
Total expenditures	\$1,678,895	\$1,344,902

FOOD BASKETS BY PROGRAM	2022	2021
Food Security/Children's Summer Food	26,173	24,160
Rural Programs	8,554	8,321
Student pantries	2,871	1,897
Senior Pantries	2,510	2,648
Thanksgiving baskets	5,168	4,453
Total	45,286	41,479

POUNDS OF FOOD	2022	2021
Pounds of food Donated	116,3609	9,693
Pounds of food rescued	789,320	656,999
Pounds of food distributed	4,002,102	5,058,189
Number of meals distributed (1.2 pounds = one meal per USDA)	3,335,085	4,215,157
Value of distributed food (One pound = \$1.72 per USDA)	\$6.9 million	\$8.7 million
Average number of pounds per cart	88	122

COST OF FOOD	2022	2021	2020	2019
Cost per pound	\$.24	\$.13	\$.09	\$.05
Total cost	\$971,352	\$655,461	\$428,237	\$186,476

One thing that jumps out is the decrease in the number of pounds of food this year, from just over 5 million pounds last year to just over 4 million pounds. This is the first year-over-year decrease CdP has ever seen! Brought about by inflation, food shortages by our partner, the Roadrunner Food Bank, and supply chain issues, pantries across the nation have consistently seen a decrease in the amount of food available for distribution. A phenomenon not unique to CdP, this has been experienced by food pantries nationwide.

The cost of food played a big part in this. We have seen the cost-per-pound increase from \$.04 in 2012 to \$.09 per pound in 2020 to \$.13 in 2021, and in 2022 it jumped again to \$.24. We stepped up our food donation drives, and our food rescue team increased their efforts, bringing in an additional 130,000 pounds of food, and our donors stepped up for us as well, but the total cost for food this past year reached an all-time high of \$971,352. Despite the challenges, we continued to provide 88 pounds of food in each basket – just above our goal of 85 pounds, and well above the standard of 45 pounds for food pantries our size.

CLIENTS SERVED	2022	2021
Food Security Program/Children's Summer Food	19,393	18,966
Rural Programs	6,195	5,754
Student pantries	450	485
Senior Pantries	1,484	1,369
Utilities	715	1,569
Snack bars	2,472	2,200
Total served Doña Ana County	30,700	29,796
Migrant Program – with Border Servants Corps	8,068	Not recorded
Total Served	38,777	29,796

VOLUNTEER HOURS	2022	2021
Total hours	16,007	12,131
Equivalent full time employees	7.7	5.8
Value of volunteer hours	\$312,296	\$236,000

As our costs for food grew, CdP also saw increases in the need for our services. We distributed 3,793 more food baskets than last year, a 9% increase, and served 913 more clients through our pantry programs than in the previous year. Through our partnership with the Border Servants Corps, we provided food to serve over 8,000 migrants traveling through Las Cruces on their way to sponsors across the country. Local clients served continues to represent over 14% of the population of Doña Ana County. One in seven residents of the county are served by our programs.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



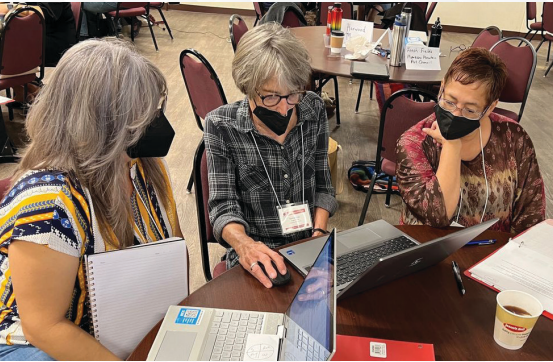
Volunteer of the Year: Diane Hammond with Diana Alvarez, Leticia Garcia, and Lorenzo Alba

Our volunteer program continues to grow. Systematic recruitment, training, scheduling, tracking, and volunteer recognition has built the volunteer program up to a level unprecedented in our history. The first “Volunteer of the Year” award was given to Diane Hammond this year at our volunteer recognition dinner at Salud de Mesilla in recognition of her loyal service in the distribution program. Thank you, Diane!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Launching a Program Evaluation Plan
CdP has always prided itself on the quality of its data tracking, but we have long sought a better way to evaluate the actual result of our services. This year, with the help of the Anderson Charitable Foundation, CdP had the opportunity to participate in the University of New Mexico Evaluation Lab, designed to provide training on evaluating non-profit service programs. It has since launched a systematic evaluation of the Food Security Program.

The goal of the evaluation is to determine the impact we have on the quality of life for participants, provide better data to funders, and to improve our services. Preliminary reports show that CdP improved clients’ financial situation – helping them purchase essential needs, cover medical expenses, transportation, and housing, improved their nutrition, and helped them worry less about food. A final report on the evaluation will be distributed in April, and will be shared on our website, www.casadeperegrinos.org.



Pictured above: CdP team at NMU working on the evaluation plan

CDP IS OPENING A PERMANENT PANTRY IN HATCH!

CdP has long sought to expand its services in the rural communities, as the poverty there is dire, full-service grocery stores are few and far between, and our rural pantries have very limited services.



In November of 2022, the Hatch Valley Public School System approached CdP about using one of their vacant buildings for a permanent pantry in the north valley. This humble building will soon become a hub for food service.

Provided to us by the HVPS, this building will be open at more convenient times, and, with refrigerators and freezers on site, we will be able to provide more food in each distribution. Renovations are underway to bring it up to code, with a spring opening date projected.

Profound thanks to Superintendent Mike Chavez and his team for their vision.