

2023 Annual Report

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GUNNISON COUNTY

Food Pantry

— La Despensa de Alimentos —

MISSION & VALUES

VISION

- Share the Bounty
- Compartiendo la generosidad

MISSION

The mission of Gunnison Country Food Pantry is to serve those-in-need by providing food assistance in a kind, confidential and supportive environment.

VALUES

We recognize that asking for temporary help is difficult and that those in need may be a neighbor or friend. To best implement these values, GCFP includes each of following values in its program design and in every other decision it makes:

- Health
- Safety
- Personal Dignity
- Volunteerism

ETHICS

The three moral principles which govern our behavior when engaged in the work of GCFP. The following concepts guide our ethics:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Trustworthiness

“Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world.” **NORMAN BORLAUG**



2023 AT A GLANCE

- **1,082** households served and requested food assistance **8,294** times
- **2,185** people received free groceries: **1,422** Adults, **503** Children, **240** Adults 60+
- Over **1,000** people received food through outreach
- **371** donors helped neighbors, **246** business and people contributed food and services
- **240,749** units of food received and distributed to neighbors
- **35** organizations partnered with GCFP to keep food within reach
- **265** volunteers served **8,620** hours

A SENSE OF PURPOSE

Dear Friend of the Pantry,

THE PAST YEAR is without a doubt the most momentous for Gunnison Country Food Pantry since its inception in 2006. We moved into a brand-new building, The Daniel Escalante Center, which is three times the size of the old one with room for offices, a volunteer room and most importantly, vastly more space for food distribution and storage. Now that we are settled in and the operation is once again humming along, we can reflect on how far we've come.

The story of the Pantry goes back to the beginning of the Food Stamps program in the early 1960s. A local Gunnison Department of Health and Human Services Director, Anne Steinbeck, realized a gap between people in need applying for food stamps and receiving their benefits. She began keeping peanut butter and bread under her desk to hand out to applicants waiting 10 days to receive their first food stamps. The drawer under her desk quickly grew to a closet in the basement of the Gunnison County Courthouse. After 40 years in that location, Ruthie and Carl Long officially registered Gunnison Country Food Pantry as a non-profit and moved the effort to the basement of Webster Hall at the Community Church.

Expanding Services

The Longs retired in 2012, handing over the responsibility to Jeanette Klepinger who worked with a board of directors and eight volunteer managers. Katie Dix took over in 2015 and grew operations to incorporate programs in Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte and expanded services for older adults and children. In 2022, Katie transitioned from the Executive Director position to lead the capital campaign for the new facility, and I assumed the role.

The past two years have been a whirlwind and it has been an honor to play a part in the exciting new chapter. The onset of COVID-19 exacerbated the need for food assistance within Gunnison County and as that need increased, the Pantry began to max out its operating

space. Our new home has allowed us to serve more community members with dignity by providing a shopping experience where households get to choose which foods their families will like and eat. The expanded space allows for the Pantry to order and safely store more regional and nutritious food options, as well as opportunities to connect with Peer Support Navigators who can assist guests in getting connected to more resources.

Keeping up the Pace

Years like the one we've just experienced call for a moment of reflection on who we are, where we come from and where we hope to go. Despite the hard work of the past 40 years, need has, unfortunately, only grown, especially in recent years. Skyrocketing price of living has coincided with other factors to put entirely new populations at risk of experiencing food insecurity. So far, we have been able to keep pace, due almost entirely to people like you. Your general support, financial and in-kind donations, and hours (upon hours) of volunteering have a tangible effect on the community we call home.

We embark on this next chapter not only with a fresh set of resources but a renewed sense of purpose. We are quickly ramping up to meet the needs of our community by adhering to our mission statement of providing stigma-free food assistance for anyone in need. I hope you'll continue to join us in this mission.

We are in this together.



Jodi Payne

JODI PAYNE
Executive Director

PANTRY PROGRAMS

FOOD ON THE MOVE

FRESH MOBILE PANTRY Every Saturday morning, beginning June and ending in November, a volunteer stocks the Fresh Mobile Pantry with produce and drives into five identified neighborhoods in need to distribute food. This program requires no application to utilize.

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT MINI PANTRY At the CBMR employee lounge, a Mini Pantry is stocked with an assortment of easy-to-prepare foods. This Pantry is restocked twice monthly, year-round. Usage is anonymous and no application is required.

NORTH VALLEY POP-UP PANTRIES Pop-up Pantries hosted in Crested Butte and Mt Crested Butte.

EMERGENCY BOXES In the event a neighbor needs immediate assistance, 26 community agencies have emergency food boxes on hand.

ADDITIONAL OUTREACH Sample Bags for seasonal employees and college students, Pop-ups at Gunnison Watershed School District, Rodeo Take & Go for contestants who visit Gunnison.



Aaron Mason Artistry

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

NO COST GROCERIES Visit the Pantry for fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, eggs, meat, and Pantry items. The amount you can take is based on your family size and available supplies. The Pantry does its best to meet any dietary/cooking restrictions.

The Pantry strives to provide translation services during all our Distribution times. To guarantee translation services, please Shop Wednesday 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

- **MONDAY SHOPPING** 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
- **WEDNESDAY SHOPPING** 1:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Spanish and Cora translators are available from 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
- **THURSDAY SHOPPING** 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., this time caters to adults 60+, but anyone is welcome to shop during this time.

MOUNTAINEER MARKETPLACE AT WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY In partnership with Western Colorado University, the on-campus food pantry serves students in need, twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30–2:00 p.m. from the Pinnacle's Apartments.

HOME DELIVERIES go out on Tuesday and Friday mornings to Gunnison and Crested Butte to guests who experience barriers to Shopping the Pantry. A barrier can be long-term or temporary and some include injury, illness, transportation, or a new baby.



PANTRY PROGRAMS

FOOD FOR CHILDREN

GUNNI-PACKS Contain six servings of meals, six snacks and one drink and are delivered weekly to children's homes on Friday morning.

MINI-PANTRIES IN SCHOOLS

Located in every school in Gunnison Watershed School District serve as a resource for emergency food, to eat immediately, or to take home. Children work with a trusted adult at the school to access the Pantry.

HEALTHY SNACKS Every month over 2,000 Healthy Snacks are distributed to Gunnison Watershed School District, Crested Butte Community School, and the Gunnison Public Library for classrooms and after school programming. Additionally, snack bags are available for families during No Cost Grocery Distribution.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

North Valley Pop-up Pantries

THIS SUMMER GCFP WILL BE expanding our North Valley Pop-up Pantry initiative, an extension of current food distribution efforts. After three pilot pop-ups in June, July and August of 2023, it was clear that the program is helpful and needed. In response, we have scheduled 12 more pop-up pantries for July–December 2024, in both Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte.

POP-UP PILOT PROGRAM RESULTS ARE CLEAR:

- **124** total individuals received food assistance:
 - **12% Children 0-17**
 - **78% Adults 18-59**
 - **10% Adults 60+**
- **64%** (47 households) **resided in CB/Mt. CB**
- Of the **26 households that lived in Gunnison, 61%** (16 households) **worked in CB/Mt. CB**
- A significant number of food recipients indicated that they had limited access to food preparation/cooking capabilities

The upcoming pop-ups will not only help those experiencing food insecurity but aid in our attempt to better understand the community and how it can best serve the North Valley's residents and workforce. The new set of programming will enable us to further our mission of providing food assistance to those in need in a kind, confidential and supportive environment.

Want to volunteer at a pop-up? Contact Jake, at volunteer@gunnisoncountryfoodpantry.org to learn more!



Jacob Spetzler

Aaron
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE PANTRY DEPENDS ON VOLUNTEERS to provide food assistance to those-in-need in Gunnison County. Here are some ways you can help.

UNLOAD A DELIVERY The first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., the Pantry receives a delivery of approximately 2,500 lbs. of food from Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado. Help unload the 18-wheeler and move cases of food into the Pantry. The job usually takes just over an hour. Pizza is served when the work is done.

COLLECT FOOD Monday through Friday, a team of volunteers meet at the Pantry at 9:00 a.m. to collect food donated by grocery stores and distributors in Gunnison. The task requires lifting trays of bread and dairy products. The Pantry owns two vans which are used for pickups.

PREPARE THE PANTRY Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until about 11:00 a.m., volunteers work in the Pantry sorting and stocking food.

DISTRIBUTE FOOD Mondays 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Wednesdays 1:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m., and Thursdays 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., the Pantry is open for distribution of food. Volunteers are needed to help recipients. Smiles and kindness are highly appreciated!

GET INVOLVED!

FILL A RED BUCKET You can host a Red Bucket Food Drive at your work, place of workshop, club or gathering. GCFP is always in need of the following: peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauces, dried beans, canned food such as meat, tuna, soups and stews, individually packaged healthy snacks for children and fresh produce.

DONATE FOOD DONATION DROP-OFF TIMES Monday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; Tuesday 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.; Wednesday 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. If you are unable to come during one of these times, please contact us and we will schedule a time to meet you.

GIVE A MONETARY DONATION Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 7077, Gunnison, CO 81230, or online at gunnisoncountryfoodpantry.org.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

DUSTO MCGUINESS IS A FAMILIAR FACE not just at the Food Pantry, where he's been a consistent volunteer for the past 10 years, but all-around town. You can find him at his day job at the Six Points Thrift Store and out on the ice, scoring goals and taking names in Gunnison Town League hockey. Mention him to anyone who knows him, and you'll get a smile.

He brings the same infectious energy, which he approaches everything in his life, to his regular volunteer shift on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for food distribution. Dusto's history with the Pantry traces back to the period right after an accident he sustained while playing hockey when he was 15. The aftermath of the injury left him struggling to rehabilitate. The Pantry shifts gave him the opportunity to not only exercise his body but his mind, he said, and he's stuck around ever since because he cares about the mission of the Pantry and the community of Gunnison at large.



Jacob Spetzler

“Everybody needs food — if you're hungry, you can't think of anything else. You're just fixated on being hungry and can't do anything. I feel like we at the Food Bank help people become more stable by providing food for those in need.”

— DUSTO MCGUINESS

Angie Krueger, the Pantry's manager, said Dusto's superpower is his skill with people.

“He always takes his time and makes them feel important,” she said.

That's especially apparent when older adults come in for distribution. Dusto said he likes slowing down and socializing, not just for himself but because he thinks the Pantry can be a real community focal point. “For the seniors, when they come into the Pantry, it's an outing for them,” he said. “It's not just the food, it's the connection.”



Travel Crested Butte



Aaron
Mason
Artistry

BLAKE HAWK SHOPPING AREA

The Blake Hawk Shopping Area is a 1,200 sq. ft. free grocery store. Guests are invited to shop for items their household will like and use. The 400 sq. ft. of walk-in refrigerator, root cooler, and freezer space has allowed the Pantry to purchase more fresh and regional products for distribution.

In 2024, the Pantry will extend its care for the community to environment by installing solar panels and insulating the attic to help keep overhead costs low, and ensure as many resources as possible go towards programming.

DANIELESCALANTE CENTER

THE FOOD PANTRY WAS PROUD TO OFFICIALLY OPEN the doors of the Daniel Escalante Center on October 10, 2023. At the Pantry, being a good neighbor is one of our defining values and the Pantry is honored to memorialize a beloved community member whose contributions to the Gunnison Valley were felt by many. In a piece which memorializes Daniel, Pantry board member Chad Reich wrote:

“Above all else, Dan was selfless. Whether offering his carpentry skills for cheap—or free, transporting someone in need in his little Red Honda Civic to their destination at a moment’s notice, or helping the nonprofit community in so many ways, he was always there. Dan put people at ease and radiated love. This sense of selflessness was extended to everyone with which he crossed paths. Dan stood up for immigrants and people he witnessed being marginalized by speaking out, holding space, or bringing them one step closer to comfort. Dan would open his home, refrigerator, and kitchen to complete strangers who needed a soft bed and a hearty meal. Expecting nothing in return, he acted out of kindness and did what he thought was right.”

By choosing Daniel Escalante as the namesake for the new Pantry space, we hope to embody the traits and values that defined his life. On this point, so far so good. The new facility served over 2,000 neighbors in need within the first eight months of operating. It’s impossible to tell exactly where the state of food insecurity will be in six months, better yet five years, but the Pantry is more equipped than ever to step up and meet those demands.

With the extra space, there is ample housing for storage. Three walk-in refrigeration units allow the Pantry the opportunity to keep food fresh for longer, thereby extending its shelf life. It also means, the Pantry can stock food it wasn’t able to in the past. This has meant GCFP is able to put extra focus on providing healthy, culturally relevant foods to guests.

The fact that GCFP owns the building itself has meant a great deal, as well. With emphasis on the stigma-free piece of the Pantry’s mission statement, the Pantry set up the interior more like a small grocery store than a traditional food pantry. Guests choose their own food, based on their tastes and cooking resources rather than being handed a bag of food that volunteers would deem the right kind. The building allows the Pantry to shine in its belief that food is not only a right, but agency and choice should play a major role in its operation.

Still, the space would be nothing without the incredible hardworking neighbors who team up to contribute every day of the week, whether at the Pantry or in their own way. Together we can further the spirit of Daniel Escalante and make life beautiful by easing the burden of food insecurity.

2023 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL I

Manage GCFP so that growth averages 5% annually.

- **OBJECTIVE 1—HUMAN RESOURCES** Develop, invest, and retain four full-time salaried employees, four part-time employees, independent contractors, work study students and interns, and 100 volunteers who implement administration, fund development, acquisitions, and distributions.
- **OBJECTIVE 2—INFRASTRUCTURE** Strengthen physical, technical and cyber infrastructure with a focus on volunteer and recipient data bases to create more effective and sustainable delivery of programs and services.
- **OBJECTIVE 3—FACILITY** Optimize the new facility to meet the proposed Expansion Project Plan. Extend our responsibility to the earth by moving forward with two initiatives that care for the environment.

GOAL II

Increase food and financial support. Attract those-in-need.

- **OBJECTIVE 4—COMMUNITY AWARENESS** Engage recipients, donors, and community members by designing audience specific resources through the eight channels GCFP utilizes to promote and achieve our four goals and eight objectives.
- **OBJECTIVE 5—FOOD** Engage with seven food sources to increase food donations to 215,500 LBS for a stable nutritional supply of food for everyone who asks for help.
- **OBJECTIVE 6—FINANCE** Raise \$405,000 in monetary contributions from individuals and small businesses, businesses and corporations, government entities, community organizations, and foundations to establish greater stability for the organization and its future.

GOAL III

Distribute food to everyone who requests assistance.

- **OBJECTIVE 7—DISTRIBUTIONS** Optimize food distributions to serve 1,000 unique households through operational efficiency, collaboration with partners, choice Pantry distribution model, home deliveries, and Mountaineer Marketplace.

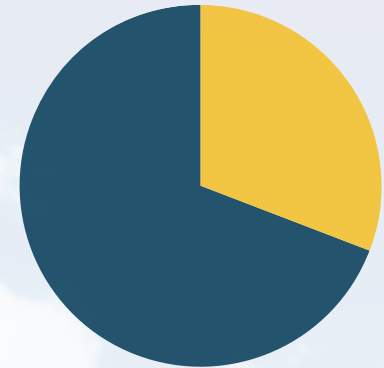
GOAL IV

Reach populations which may need but may not seek food assistance.

- **OBJECTIVE 8—OUTREACH** Implement four outreach efforts that bridge gap between bounty and poverty, promote community collaboration, help those-in-need become more food secure, and tests strategies for distribution of nutritious food in a safe, cost effective, and equitable way.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The summarized financial information below reflects year-end results for the Pantry's operations during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.



SUPPORT & REVENUE

69% Operations	763,486
31% In-Kind	350,727

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE 1,114,212



EXPENSES

54% Direct Program	406,544
46% Operating Expenses	353,142

TOTAL EXPENSES 759,685

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Sodexo Campus Services
Sol Food Gardens Sierra Fairfield Smith
St. Peters Catholic Church

Staci Ohagan
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“Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a child isn’t.” **JEFF BRIDGES**



Aaron Mason Artistry



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