Increasing health equity in Denver, Colorado by reducing barriers to fresh, healthy food in low-income and food desert communities
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THE WHEELS OF DFR ARE TURNING

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Denver Food Rescue,

There’s scarcely anything that warms my heart more than walking into our office at Green Spaces Co-Working (this year, we upgraded to a dedicated desk area!) and seeing my three incredible co-workers typing away, working on their own projects, occasionally nudging one another for feedback, and breaking off into mini brainstorming sessions. It gives such a sense of satisfaction to know that the wheels of DFR are turning, now more than ever without the need for the constant oversight by me or any other co-founder. What an amazing feeling to know that the organization is in great hands, better than I could ever offer.

My appreciation for our constantly growing momentum doesn’t stop there. This year I was stunned by the dedication of our many tough, and passionate volunteers, who were on their bikes or in their cars delivering food all 365 days, even when our staff were on weekend or away from the office. How wonderful to know that our work has resonated with so many people who are willing to keep our work moving forward even on their days off, or even in the rain.

Of course, the work is only halfway done once our staff and volunteers have done their jobs. Our 12 (and counting) amazing No Cost Grocery Program Partners do the most important work of all. The parents, neighbors, community leaders, and activists in our partnering low-income neighborhoods who give up their precious time to support their community’s access to healthy food are living examples of effective organizing. Their work starts before we drop off the food and ends after it has all found a home. We are proud to partner with these leaders and have their support on our resident-driven Board of Directors.

But even in the rare instant that no volunteer is pedaling, no staff typing, no grocery program buzzing with people, there’s still one member of our community who’s hard at work: you. You who give monthly to DFR through our membership program; your foundation, city agency, or other grant giver who invests in our work, and you ambassador, who attends DFR events, posts on social media, and supports DFR in any other way, you are a part of this work, and you are a part of this community, fighting for equitable access to healthy food, and against food waste.

...you are a part of this work,
and you are a part of this community,
fighting for equitable access to
healthy food, and against food waste

Here’s to another year of riding together,
Turner Wyatt
OUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

This year DFR increased access to healthy food in 12 communities with help from our No Cost Grocery Program partners. **13,000 individuals were supplied with fresh whole produce.** This saved residents in our partnered neighborhoods **$567,434 in grocery savings!** For 2017 we plan to add a minimum of 4 additional No Cost Grocery Programs, achieve cooking and nutrition classes at all of our programs and rescue 600,000 lbs of food.

No Cost Grocery Programs

The DFR No Cost Grocery Program (NCGP) model exists to serve these otherwise overlooked neighborhoods with a realization that income is inversely proportional to consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. Often low-income communities exhibit **diet related diseases that can be avoided** by increased consumption of fresh produce. In 2016 Denver Food Rescue’s No Cost Grocery Programs hosted 16 cooking and nutrition classes per month at 4 program sites for a total of **168 cooking and nutrition classes for the year.** These classes featured fresh food preparation and preservation utilizing rescued food, hosting 572 attendees each month with a grand total of **6000 attendees for the year of 2016.** In our efforts to reduce the transportation barrier, Denver Food Rescue was able to get **440 discounted RTD passes distributed to No Cost Grocery Program participants.**

Rescue Stats

- **A Farmers Markets:** 24,460 lbs rescued
  32nd Street Highlands Farmers Market, City Park Esplanade Farmers Market, Northeast Community Co-op, South Pearl Farmer’s Market, Union Station Farmer’s Market, Shorty’s Produce
- **B Grocery Stores:** 173,967 lbs rescued
- **C Wholesale Distributors:** 110,597 lbs rescued
  5280 Produce, Alberts Organics, Colo-Pac, Fresh Pack Produce, MM Local, The Fresh Guys, UNFI, Shorty’s Produce
- **D Non-Profits:** 18,971 lbs rescued
  Grow Local Colorado, Metro Caring

327,997 lbs total food rescued

24,460
173,967
110,597
18,971

Lbs of Food Rescued

327,997 lbs total food rescued
OUR PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Neighborhoods & Community Partners

Elyria-Swansea
Globeville
Park Hill
Clayton
Five Points
Aurora
Montbello
Sun Valley

BirdSeed Collective
The Growhaus
Park Hill Boys & Girls Club
Clayton Early Learning Center
Heart & Hand Center for Youth & their Families
The Catholic Worker
Project Worthmore
KIPP College Prep
Maxwell Elementary Academy 360
Sun Valley Youth Center
Denver Housing Authority
The Westside Clinic
Earthlinks

Community History:
Elyria-Swansea is historically a working class community surrounded by manufacturing and transportation infrastructure. Despite the rich culture and strong sense of community in the area, residents face a number of challenges. Elyria-Swansea has one of the highest poverty rates in Denver, low educational outcomes, and low employment rates. It is classified as a food desert as it lacks a full-service grocery store. 70% of its population are both low-income and have low access to healthy food, which results in a high level of diet related illness. After becoming aware of the immense need in this area, DFR teamed up with The GrowHaus in July of 2014 to create a one of our first No Cost Grocery Programs.

NCGP Partner Info:
The GrowHaus is a non-profit indoor farm in Denver’s Elyria-Swansea neighborhood. Their vision is to catalyze a neighborhood-based food system in our community that is healthy, equitable, and resident-driven. They achieve this through food production, food distribution and food education.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Elyria-Swansea achieved the following outcomes in 2016:

Total pounds distributed: 65,452
Pounds re-distributed through Movil Food Delivery Program: 14,295
Number of families surveyed: 103
Number of individuals surveyed: 413
OUR PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY FOCUS

**Globeville: BirdSeed Collective**

**Community History:**
Globeville is a historically diverse and industrial neighborhood in North Denver. 66% of the population works in the industrial sector but despite stable employment many struggle to feed their families due to gentrification and other issues. 40% of Globeville population live in poverty and 65% of children have low access to healthy food and the neighborhood is classified as a food desert. The intersection of economic barriers and few options for healthy affordable food creates a great need in this area. In hopes of meeting that need we co-created a No Cost Grocery Program in the area with the help of BirdSeed Collective in February of 2014.

**NCGP Partners Info:**
BirdSeed Collective is a small community & arts non-profit organization directed by two former long-time residents of Globeville. One of their goals is to create opportunities for positive community and artistic programs in the Globeville neighborhood. With many years of experience in implementing several projects and programs, BirdSeed Collective and volunteers have committed to running a weekly resident-based food distribution program.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Globeville achieved the following outcomes in 2016:

- Total pounds distributed: 45,877
- Number of families surveyed: 124
- Number of individuals surveyed: 435

**Lincoln Park/Baker: Cope Boys & Girls Club**

**Community History:**
La Alma/Lincoln Park and Baker are among Denver’s oldest neighborhoods. The poverty rate is nearly double that of the average Denver poverty rate and nearly 60% of children come from single family homes. We co-created a No Cost Grocery Program in the Cope Boys & Girls Club in hopes of helping provide healthy food options for these families and improving their quality of life.

**NCGP Partner Info:**
As one of the most well-known youth organizations in the country, Boys & Girls Clubs provide young people with opportunities to engage in programs that help them achieve academic success, take charge of their health by building healthy habits that will stick with them throughout their lives, and foster the skills they need to become leaders in their communities. The Cope Club serves nearly 1,000 members each year and participates in a variety of community events. The Cope Boys & Girls Club has hosted a No Cost Grocery Program since 2015.

- Total pounds distributed: 8,202
- Number of families surveyed: 62
- Number of individuals surveyed: 297
OUR PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Five Points: Heart & Hand, Denver Catholic Worker

Community History:
The poverty rate in Five Points is almost 20% greater than the average Denver poverty rate and many individuals struggle to access healthy food as a result. Many of those who struggle the most send their children to the Heart & Hand Center for Youth and Their Families, where 96% of the families live below the poverty line. Our partnership with Heart & Hand began in January of 2015.

NCGP Partners Info:
Heart & Hand is dedicated to improving the lives of at risk youth and their families. Through high quality out of school time programming, they empower all children and families with the skills, information, and resources they need to create and realize their dreams. By investing in consistent and compassionate support for children and families, they strive to disrupt the cycle of poverty and close the opportunity gap. Heart & Hand serves 100, low-income youth in Denver’s Five Points neighborhood. What makes Heart & Hand unique is their model of long term, intensive support. Food is distributed when children are picked up from the after school program on Wednesdays.

The Denver Catholic Worker has provided meals to the homeless in Denver for 30 years as an all-volunteer operation. The Denver Catholic Worker community has always been a positive commingling of people with different social, economic, educational, political and religious perspectives. Their No Cost Grocery Program began in 2015 and was active until a fire in early 2016 closed their housing. Programming will return from hiatus in 2017.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Five Points achieved the following outcomes in 2016:
Total pounds distributed: 30,850
Number of families surveyed: 67
Number of individuals surveyed: 197

Park Hill: Vickers Boys & Girls Club

Community History:
Despite its rich history and culture, Northeast Park Hill, the location of Vickers Boys & Girls Club, faces a number of challenges. Increasing rent prices add burden to a historically low income community. Despite efforts to build a full service grocery store one has yet to open. As a result, 45% of children have low access to healthy food which puts them at higher risk of diet related illnesses and is tied to lower educational outcomes.

NCGP Partner Info:
The Vickers Boys & Girls Club provides services to underserved young people in the area, providing a place from them to learn, grow and succeed in life. In 2014, Vickers helped organize and create a No Cost Grocery Program to help provide healthy food to its participants and families.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Park Hill achieved the following outcomes in 2016:
Total pounds distributed: 10,127
Number of families surveyed: 93
Number of individuals surveyed: 353
OUR PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Aurora: Project Worthmore

Community History:
The location of Project Worthmore, Original Aurora, was once Denver’s booming downtown. Although community members are making efforts to improve the area, there are still many struggles among residents to meet their basic needs. One of these struggles is food insecurity, which is felt among many cultures in the area, but perhaps most strongly among the large refugee population who reside in this area. Unfortunately, the refugee population and their unique needs are often forgotten. We began working with Project Worthmore in June of 2015 in response to one particular need - lack of access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables.

NCGP Partner Info:
Project Worthmore is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the quality of life of Denver-area refugees by providing cultural mentorship and community supports. Every Wednesday and Friday, volunteers drop off rescued produce. Between 25 and 35 refugee families come to “shop” for the food that they want. In order to offer culturally-relevant and healthful food, no canned, processed or sugar-laden food is accepted.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Aurora achieved the following outcomes in 2016:
Total pounds distributed: 48,435 pounds
Number of families surveyed: 188
Number of individuals surveyed: 241

Montbello: KIPP College Prep, Maxwell Elementary, Academy 360

Community History:
Montbello came about in the mid 1960’s as an intentionally diverse community and is currently about 60% Latino and 28% African American. Due to systematic inequity the poverty rate is almost 15% greater than the average Denver poverty rate and nearly 50% of children there have low access to healthy food. Because of the size of the neighborhood itself, the huge need for healthy food, and per the request of community members, we created 3 No Cost Grocery Programs in the Montbello neighborhood in May of 2016.

NCGP Partners Info:
KIPP Montbello College Prep, founded in 2011, is a tuition-free, college-preparatory public charter school serving 450 students in 2016-17. Their main goal is to encourage college graduation. Maxwell Elementary is an alternative DPS elementary school. At Maxwell, they intentionally create a positive, cohesive, proactive school culture in service of achieving their mission – developing their students’ independence, critical thought, and enduring love for learning. Academy 360 is a Denver Public School driven by the mission to develop students’ minds, bodies, and characters so they may lead healthy and fulfilling lives in school, college, and beyond. Their vision is to set a new precedent for how a school partners with community.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Montbello achieved the following outcomes in 2016:
Total pounds distributed: 60,299 pounds
Number of families surveyed: 253
Number of individuals surveyed: 1,127
OUR PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Clayton: Clayton Early Learning Center

Community History:
The Clayton neighborhood is classified as a food desert and has limited access to both healthy food options and medical services. 52% of the families are headed by a single parent, and nearly a quarter of these parents never achieved high school graduation. Nearly 40% of Clayton Early Learning Center families worry about food insecurity and 20% run out of food when benefits end. After being approached by a member of Clayton’s Food For Families Committee in 2015 and presented with these findings, we found it necessary to co-create a No Cost Grocery Program in hopes of lending a hand in the great work they do. Our program began in April of 2015.

NCGP Partner Info:
A major proving ground for all things early childhood, Clayton Early Learning is Colorado’s leading catalyst in providing early care and education, and collaborating with others to improve these important services. Their work focuses on ensuring optimal development during the critical birth-to-5 period for all children, focusing not only on educational development, but also on social/emotional development and physical well-being.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Clayton achieved the following outcomes in 2016:
Total pounds distributed: 7,104.4 pounds
Number of families surveyed: 97
Number of individuals surveyed: 371

Sun Valley:

Community History:
In Sun Valley, the average household income is under $13,000 dollars and nearly 90% of residents are living in poverty. Due to this extremely high poverty rate and the fact that Sun Valley is classified as a food desert, it is very difficult for families to access healthy food. Because of the immense need in this area, we started a No Cost Grocery Program there in June of 2016.

NCGP Partner Info:
In Sun Valley, food is delivered to Sun Valley Kitchen which provides children and families with opportunities for self-expression, self-awareness and personal growth, while fostering unity within the dynamic, multi-cultural neighborhood. Community members come together around food, nightly dinners for neighborhood youth, weekly cooking classes for kids, and community dinners. Additional food is also distributed to EarthLinks, the Sun Valley Youth Center, West Side Health Clinic and Denver Housing Authority.

We are excited to report that our community partners in Sun Valley achieved the following outcomes in 2016:
Total pounds distributed: 14,736
Number of families surveyed: 111
Number of individuals surveyed: 313

Additional distributions and services: DFR is proud to support the following community organizations by donating over 36,823 pounds of rescued food in 2016: Bannock Youth & Family Center, Center for Work Education Employment, Denver Inner City Parish, Denver Rescue Mission, Mo Betta Green Market Place, Food Not Bombs, Frank’s Food Mart, Girls Inc., Greater Park Hill Community Food Bank, Robert A Miller Educational Resource Center, Senior Support Services, and Servicios de la Raza
DFR relies on our amazing volunteers to help with all aspects of our programming from rescuing food to volunteering at our NCGPs and maintaining our garages and trailers to helping spread the word about DFR. In 2016 our amazing volunteers provided $235,000 worth of assistance to DFR by volunteering 10,000 hours. We truly could not accomplish our goals without them.

Riding for DFR has been one of the greatest experiences of my life - it is so fulfilling to have such a positive impact in so many ways and my fellow volunteers have been a joy to hang out with. I look forward to riding every week.

- DFR Volunteer

Based on volunteer feedback, next year we are excited to grow our volunteer program to better support our partner organizations and rescue even more food. We will also begin hosting community based events to greater connect our volunteers with the communities we partner with.

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<tr>
<th>Volunteer Stats</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>327,997</strong> lbs of food re-distributed in 2016</td>
<td><strong>662,705</strong> lbs of food re-distributed all time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5,200</strong> hours of food rescue</td>
<td><strong>1,000</strong> hours of program support via events, fundraising, and garage maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>700</strong> intern hours</td>
<td><strong>18,000</strong> miles biked saving 8 tons of CO2 from being emitted</td>
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OUR IMPACT

2016 IMPACT REPORT

Lbs of Food Rescued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lbs of Food Rescued</th>
<th>Year to Year Pounds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>60,442</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>211,170</td>
<td>327,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
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Miles Travelled

Travelled 18,000 miles on bike transporting food

Program Participant Changes

- Decrease 10% in difficulties in accessing healthy food
- Increase 30% in # of meals cooked at home each week

Received national authorization for SNAP home delivery by USDA Food & Nutrition Service

Launched Fresh Food Connect app with $100,000 grant from Impact 100

Created Goodness Groceries / Bondadosa social enterprise to carry out SNAP home delivery

Additional 2016 Highlights

- Added 3 NCGPs
- Donated 676 pounds of produce from 35 gardeners in 4 zipcodes to low cost and no cost farm stands and food programs through the Fresh Food Connect app
- Added full-time Program Director position
- Provided $567,434 in grocery savings to our community partners
- Over 250 attended annual membership drive event, Gears & Grub Trivia increasing donor membership by 35%
- Received monthly press coverage including major news outlets in Denver
- Saved 325 tons of CO2 emissions by keeping 327,997 lbs of food out of the landfill
The Food Rescue Ride is our un-gala and serves as our biggest fundraiser of the year! 2016’s was our 2nd year hosting this event. After enjoying breakfast and coffee on the reservoir, riders dressed as their favorite fruit or veggie pedaled through Cherry Creek State Park on a 15 or 30 mile path. Some participants braved the trailer pull ride option with 100 pounds of garden soil stacked on their bicycle trailer (later donated to school gardens)! The ride ends with lunch, drinks, prizes, and games and a stronger, more unified food rescue community.

89 cyclists

341 individual donors to cyclists’ fundraising pages

39 businesses provided support & sponsorships

$33,000 raised (supporting rescue of 118,800 lbs of food & $132,000 in grocery savings for community partners)

JOIN US NEXT YEAR!

3rd Annual FRR on August 19th

Register at foodrescueride.org

**Don’t forget to dress as your favorite fruit or vegetable**
# FINANCIALS

Supporters, Contributors, and the Big Picture

<table>
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<th>Major Contributors</th>
<th>In the Last 2 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>City and County of Denver, Office of Economic Development</td>
<td>$ 40,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>$ 35,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Cities Foundation</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Foods Market</td>
<td>$ 5,447.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver Foundation</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taddonio Family Foundation</td>
<td>$ 3,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Denver, Dept. of Environment and Health</td>
<td>$ 11,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Mennonite Church</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian Mission</td>
<td>$ 4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact100 - to fund a collaborative project, Fresh Food Connect</td>
<td>$ 100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Family Foundation</td>
<td>$ 7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$ 1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$ 1,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$ 1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committed monthly giving from 100+ monthly donors (“members”) and counting</td>
<td>$ 20,000.00</td>
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**In-Kind Donations**

2016 In-Kind:
- Donated food: estimated total $ 552,120.00
- Volunteer time: estimated value $ 235,000.00
- Less than $1,000 of small gifts from various companies.

2015 In-Kind:
- Donated food: estimated total $ 365,324.00
- Less than $1,000 of small gifts from various companies.

**Committed for 2017**

- Denver Office of Economic Development $ 80,000.00
- Gray Community Investments - matching grant $ 30,000.00
- Scheduled monthly giving $ 30,000.00

**2016 Expenses ($139,000)**

- Programming (97%)
- Admin (3%)

**2016 Income ($188,300)**

- Government Contracts (21.2%)
- Foundations (31.9%)
- Events (15.8%)
- Earned Income (1.3%)
- Indiv. Contributions (26.7%)
- Other* (3.0%)
### GET INVOLVED

#### Goals & What You Can Do

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<th>Goals</th>
<th>for 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Co-create</strong></td>
<td>4 new NCGPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rescue</strong></td>
<td>600,00 lbs of food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donate</strong></td>
<td>$1 million in grocery savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distribute</strong></td>
<td>RTD passes to all NCGPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Engagement</td>
</tr>
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#### What You Can Do

**Donate:**
Denver Food Rescue could use your help! Your donation is more important than ever before. If you would like to contribute, please donate online or contact our development coordinator.

**Donate online** at our Colorado Gives Day profile here: [https://www.coloradogives.org/DenverFoodRescue/overview](https://www.coloradogives.org/DenverFoodRescue/overview)

**Or write a check** to “Denver Food Rescue” here:
Denver Food Rescue
1368 26th Street
Denver, CO 80205

We love partnering with like minded businesses for in-kind donations and sponsorships for events. Please contact Amy, our development & marketing coordinator for more info.

We also are **always welcoming new food donors!** Interested? Contact our program director Neambe to get started.
GET INVOLVED

What You Can Do

Volunteer:
We are distributing food multiple times a day, every day of the week, and could use your help. **It only takes about an hour and a half to do a shift** a week. If you’re interested in strapping some food to your bike, shoot us an email at info@denverfoodrescue.org

Don’t want to bike food around but still want to help? We can always use more help on the back end of things. Whatever skills you have to contribute, we could use, including graphic design, grant writing, networking, event planning, fundraising, etc. Shoot us an email!

Next Event:
The **3rd annual Food Rescue Ride** is happening August 19th, 2017. Our un-gala, the Food Rescue Ride is a bike ride fundraiser bring together family and friends for 3 non competitive ride options - a 15 mile, 30 mile, or 100 lb trailer pull ride at either distance! Don’t forget to dress as your favorite fruit or vegetable.

Register at foodrescueride.org today!

Wish List:
- Food Rescue Ride Sponsors
- Leadership Circle Members
- Purchase of 10th Bicycle Trailer
- Volunteer Appreciation Program

Staff:
- Turner Wyatt, Executive Director turner@denverfoodrescue.org
- Neambe Leadon, Program Director neambe@denverfoodrescue.org
- Amy Moore-Shipley, Development & Marketing Coordinator amy@denverfoodrescue.org
- Emily Olsen, Volunteer Coordinator emily@denverfoodrescue.org