TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 LETTER TO COMMUNITY
2 VALUES
3 PROGRAMS
9 OUR IMPACT
11 VOLUNTEERS
12 FINANCIALS
Dearest Community,

I hope this letter finds you all well, with grace and patience allowed for the year of 2020. As we reflect on that time there are two things that come to mind, Covid-19 and Community. This pandemic affected so many people in different ways. We saw the food insecurity pandemic be pushed to the forefront. The looks of that impact resembled everyone, not just our underserved and our most vulnerable populations. It hit those that are working middle class, it affected our youth and our homebound communities because youth were now at home and not at school where they often depended on those meals as part of their food security. The resources that assisted our homebound communities shutdown or had little to no idea on how to perform their services through a pandemic. We all had to pivot and reimagine and act on a new, more equitable and inclusive food access landscape in Denver. We did this Together!

2020 opened our eyes to some of the gaps and challenges in the community that we would have not otherwise seen without the pandemic. We also recognized the strength within the DFR staff and community and how valuable our partnerships.

Through these relationships, foundations have been built that enabled us to act quickly, expand and diversify other ways to meet the needs. We look forward to continuing our work in 2021 and to be able to envision and practice a more equitable accessible food system in Denver.

CHRISTINE ALFORD
Executive Director
Denver Food Rescue is a resident-led, volunteer-driven, non profit organization; whose mission is to produce health equity with Denver neighborhoods. We rescue, what would be otherwise wasted, highly perishable fresh food, and redistribute it to already established partnered orgs; such as after-school programs, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, Denver Public schools, residential facilities and Denver Health.

Who is Denver Food Rescue?

Mission

To produce health equity WITH Denver neighborhoods

Values

Healthy Equity

• The current system creates health gaps, particularly impacting low-income people and people of color. Denver Food Rescue believes that health is a right that should be enjoyed by everyone.

Integration of Feedback

• DFR recognizes that true lasting solutions will only be formed through authentic engagement with the communities lacking health equity. We are also informed by evidence-based, scientific research and internal evaluation practices.

Food Security

• Every individual deserves to have control of their food situation. Whether that is the right amount or type that best serves them.

The DFR No Cost Grocery Program (NCGP) is a resident-led model to decrease stigma of traditional food pantries. Community participation empowers each neighborhood to create a program that is appropriate for their culture & community.
No Cost Grocery Program Partners

- Cope Boys and Girls Club
- GrowHaus
- Clayton Early Learning
- Vickers Boys and Girls Club
- Denver Health: MEND
- Red Shield
- Project Worthmore (Aurora, CO)
- Ricardo Flores Magon Academy
- Family Star NE
- Family Star NW
- Casa de Rosal
- Denver Health: MEND
- Sun Valley Kitchen
- Cope Boys and Girls Club
- Thomas Bean Towers
- Heart and Hand
- Bridge Place Academy
- Bridge Place Academy
- Clayton Early Learning
- Denver Health: MEND
- Red Shield
- Project Worthmore (Aurora, CO)
- Ricardo Flores Magon Academy
- Family Star NE
- Family Star NW
- Casa de Rosal
- Denver Health: MEND
- Sun Valley Kitchen
- Cope Boys and Girls Club
- Thomas Bean Towers
- Heart and Hand
- Bridge Place Academy
No Cost Grocery Programs

participant numbers

12,080 unduplicated families
39,363 unduplicated individuals
15,441 unduplicated youth

103,834 total visits and reach in household
No Cost Grocery Program
Covid Report March - June 2020

This Denver Food Rescue (DFR) COVID Report reflects the input & impact of No Cost Grocery Programs (NCGPs) for the months of March through June. During this challenging period, our Denver communities were affected as unemployment, poverty and food insecurity were on the rise across the country. To continue our effort to produce health equity with Denver neighborhoods, DFR was able to maintain operations with twelve NCGPs in a variety of Denver neighborhoods.

19,192 program participants
8,470 youth served

Kinds of Food
- Nonperishable: 2%
- Fresh Prepared: 9%
- Baked Goods: 5%
- Dairy: 6%
- Produce: 78%

Types of Donors
- Food Banks
- Grocery Stores
- Wholesale Distributors
- Local Gardeners
- Side Markets
- Community Donations
- Restaurants
- Farmer’s Markets

Neighborhoods Served
- Chaffee Park
- Five Points
- Federal Heights
- Green Valley Ranch
- Sun Valley
- East Colfax
- Berkley
- Clayton
- Globeville
- Elyria-Swansia

208,076 lbs of nutrition donated to Denver neighborhoods
Continuing our partnership with Denver Health, we opened a program at the Eastside Clinic in Five Points. This program is designed to serve the families enrolled in the Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It! (MEND) program, which targets kids 6–13 and their families, providing experiential nutrition and exercise workshops.

We partnered with the over-55 community at Casa de Rosal in Villa Park, led by Community Activist, Food Advocate, and resident Andrea Loudd. Every Saturday, DFR brings healthy food from Sprouts, where Casa de Rosal’s volunteers divide it into boxes to be distributed to every resident in the building.
We welcomed a new No Cost Grocery Program serving the students and families of Place Bridge Academy, located in southeastern Denver near Cherry Creek. Place Bridge Academy is part of Denver Public Schools and serves over 1000 students from all over the world – the student body speaks more than 60 different languages and includes students from over 40 different countries. Place Bridge Academy also has “Newcomer Centers” alongside mainstream classrooms in grades K–6 to provide concentrated English language development.

Place Bridge has been in partnership with Denver Food Rescue for some time now, including based out of Street Fraternity on East Colfax that then pivoted to a Sunday delivery program that began in response to the covid-19 pandemic. Each week about 30 Place Bridge families receive a delivery.
Fresh Food Connect utilizes technology to solve two problems – excess garden produce and food insecurity. If you have extra produce, you can schedule pickups via the Fresh Food Connect app. Then, our courier team will pick up the produce on bicycles and distribute it in local neighborhoods facing food insecurity.

229 gardeners in 7 zip codes donated 5,000 lbs of produce to 600 food insecure residents in 2020

Download The App!

With your phone, scan this code or visit qrcod.de/bc3429 to download
In 2020, Denver Food Rescue partnered with 23 Community organizations to create No Cost Grocery Programs in 15 different neighborhoods to increase access to fresh food.

Through DFR’s programming, 103,834 individuals were supplied with over 600,000 pounds of food.

This saved NCGP participants over $2.3 million in grocery savings!
The food diverted from the landfill has not only saved millions of dollars, but also millions of gallons of water and thousands of kilograms of carbon dioxide.

The majority of the food rescued is fresh fruits and vegetables. Research shows that those with less access to healthy fruits and vegetables are at higher risk to suffer from diet related illnesses.

600,000 pounds rescued & redistributed

- Fresh Prepared: 8.6%
- Dairy: 5%
- Baked Goods: 5.5%
- Frozen / Meat: 2%
- Produce: 76.6%

600,000 pounds of food rescued
290,102,920 gallons of water saved
580,237 kilograms of carbon dioxide diverted

from the landfill
Volunteers biked 6,834 miles
201 shifts were completely by bike
1378 shifts were completed by car

150 active volunteers helped to complete 46 food rescue shifts each week for 52 weeks!
In 2020 $16,600 went back into Denver’s economy through stipends, grocery gift cards, and buying from our BIPOC community members!

Fiscal Donation by Types

DFR relies on a diverse group of corporate and individual contributors to promote our mission. With their support, our work to achieve food and health equity in Denver neighborhoods is possible.