This year has laid the groundwork for a future brimming with hope and promise.

We are delighted to present the impact report for Denver Food Rescue (DFR), encompassing 2022 to 2023. As the Executive Director, I joined the DFR team in late 2021 and witnessed numerous challenges and achievements during this transformative period.

Challenges and Growth:

DFR encountered several obstacles, including fundraising difficulties and staffing changes. However, we remained steadfast in our commitment to addressing equity in the workplace and implemented proactive measures to foster a diverse and inclusive environment. Additionally, we successfully expanded our board, bolstering our organizational leadership.

Program Highlights:

We are thrilled to report several notable program accomplishments during this timeframe. Most significantly, we welcomed Berry Kone as our Development Manager. I am personally excited to have the opportunity to work alongside Berry daily to share the mission of DFR's to so many more people. We also hired our first Community Engagement Coordinator, Maya Blazingame; her excitement and passion for ensuring equity within food access have fostered community involvement and impact. In 2022 community leader Andrea Loudd launched "Andreas Free Farmers Market" and the Andrea's Market Holiday Food Box, providing nourishment and joy to the Villa Park Neighborhood residents. DFR's Program Manager, Sydney Skilken, has worked tirelessly alongside Andrea to ensure those attending these markets have access to beautiful, fresh, local, culturally responsive foods. Tsiky Maxey was promoted to Volunteer Manager, and former volunteer Max Julien came on board as a part-time food courier. Together they worked with more than 150 volunteers to rescue more than 600,000 pounds of fresh food, with many of these shifts being completed via our E-Cargo Bike Program.
Program Director Jamie Anderson continued to bring her extensive environmental sustainability knowledge and impeccable team leadership skills to our programs team to help DFR reach one of its most impactful years. DFR was incredibly fortunate to have worked with Michelle Christance and Kat Cantillo in 2022. Their efforts to increase food donations from retailers, distributors, and local farms laid the groundwork for our current Food Operations Manager, Antolina Medina, to have continued success in 2023. I am so excited to see all that DFR can achieve with this incredible group of people guiding the organization.

**Regional and State Food Summits:**

DFR was honored to participate in the Regional Food and Colorado State Food Summit. These events served as powerful catalysts, bringing together individuals from diverse demographics, sectors, and geographies to collectively combat food insecurity. Our participation in these summits reaffirmed our commitment to driving positive change within the field.

**Food Recovery Accomplishments:**

Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the global health crisis and supply chain disruptions, DFR emerged as the nation's most significant independent urban and plant-based recovery nonprofit. Over the past three years, we have recovered and distributed a staggering 700,000 pounds of fresh food, with 580,000 pounds recovered in 2022 alone. These efforts have made a significant impact in addressing both food waste and food insecurity.

**Expanded Reach:**

DFR's reach has expanded dramatically, now impacting over 170,000 individuals annually. In 2022, we established 21 No Cost Grocery Programs (NCGPs) across 15 metro area zip codes, extending our services to 140 zip codes throughout Colorado. This remarkable progress has been made possible through the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers, consisting of experienced veterans and passionate newcomers, who have brought fresh perspectives and invaluable support to our mission.
Organizational Sustainability and Equity:

As we navigated through the challenging years of the pandemic, we successfully transitioned from crisis mode to focusing on long-term sustainability. We dedicated resources to ensure an equitable and diverse organization, implementing a diverse slate approach to all hiring practices. Additionally, we reaffirmed our commitment to our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) goals, striving to create an environment that fosters the participation and representation of all individuals.

Future Outlook:

In 2022, we developed a comprehensive strategic plan, setting the stage for further growth and impact in 2023 under the banner "Action to Nourishment." This strategic plan solidifies our impact and positions us for future expansion and development in 2024 and 2025. We extend our gratitude to our supporters and volunteers.

Volunteer Contributions:

Our volunteers have played an indispensable role in our success. In 2022 alone, they generously dedicated over 2,500 hours and transported 40,000 pounds of food through e-cargo bike rescue shifts. Their selfless efforts, like those highlighted in a personal testimonial we received this summer, have made a significant difference in the lives of the individuals we serve.

Conclusion:

Reflecting upon the achievements, challenges, and growth experienced by DFR during the 2022-2023 period, we take great pride in our evolution as a potent, nimble, and impactful organization. We sincerely thank everyone who has supported our mission thus far. We cordially invite you to join us on our continued journey in combating food insecurity and working towards a more equitable society.

Sincerely,

Letisha Steele,
They/Them
WHO WE ARE

Since its inception in 2014, Denver Food Rescue has been committed to increasing access to healthy and fresh food in underserved communities throughout the Denver area. The organization was founded on the premise that food insecurity and inequality were significant issues that needed to be addressed, and it has since been dedicated to establishing a more just and equitable food system.

Mission

Denver Food Rescue increases access to healthy, fresh food in underserved communities by rescuing high-quality produce that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to those in need. We believe everyone deserves access to healthy food and are committed to creating a more just and equitable food system.

Values

- Health Equity
  DFR believes in equal access to healthcare for all, regardless of race, income, or geography. Targeted solutions and education are necessary to bridge health gaps, especially those affecting low-income and people of color.

- Food security
  Everyone deserves control over their own food situation, without the stress of running out of food. This can be achieved through increased wages or better access to food, so that individuals and families can have the amount and type of food that suits them best.

- Integration of feedback
  Denver Food Rescue values continuous learning, authentic engagement with those experiencing issues, evidence-based research, and internal evaluations to guide actions towards lasting solutions.
One of our key programs is the No Cost Grocery Program (NCGP). DFR has co-created 20 NCGPs in 15 neighborhoods in Denver and delivered over 650,000 lbs of food to families in Denver neighborhoods. Each year, DFR provides healthy food to approximately 20,000 unduplicated individuals valued at more than $3 million. The names of these Program partners are Academy 360, Birseed Collective, Caring & Sharing, Casa de Rosal, College Track, Eastside MEND, Family Star NE, Family Star NW, Frontline Farming, Green Valley Ranch KIPP, The Growhaus, Heart & Hand Center for youth and their families, Iglesia Amistad, Place Bridge Academy, Place Bridge Community at the Heights Church, Project Worthmore, Spirit of the Sun, Sun Valley Kitchen, Thomas Bean Towers, Urban Peak, Vickers Boys & Girls Club, Westside MEND, and Westwood Re:Vision.
No Cost Grocery Program Data

Participant Numbers

Total Unduplicated People Served: 197,199
Total Unduplicated Youth Served: 74,290
Total Weekly and Bi-weekly visits: 63,895
No Cost Grocery Program Highlights

**Family Star NW**

In 2022, Family Star NW returned to the grocery store format for their No Cost Grocery program. This means that families participating in the program can once again shop for the food they need, just like they would at a regular grocery store. Thanks to DFR's partnership with local grocery stores, the program can offer various fresh produce, dairy products, and other healthy foods.

**Westwood Re:Vision**

Westwood Re:Vision became an official partner of Denver Food Rescue in 2022, and we couldn't be more thrilled to have them on board. Through this partnership, we are able to work together to provide healthy, fresh food options to those in need in the Westwood community.

**Thomas Bean Towers**

Thomas Bean No Cost Grocery partner continues to provide free, fresh produce and healthy food to the community even after no longer sharing a building with DFR. Their dedication to improving access to nutritious food for underserved communities in Denver is a true testament to their commitment to the cause.
Healthy Food For Denver's Kids Highlights

Self Sufficiency and Nutrition (SAN) Program's Data

- **150 Students**
- **8 weeks per 10 sessions**
- **Whittier K-8, Columbine Elementary, Stedman Elementary, Bruce Randolph Middle School, Smith Elementary School**

HFDK

In 2022, we successfully renewed both of our Healthy Food for Denver's Kids grants, supporting our No Cost Grocery Programs and the people who run them as well as expanding our home delivery program to 546 families.

Program Overview

Self Sufficiency and Nutrition in the Classroom (SAN) teaches 1st-8th grade students to cook healthy food with available resources and to grasp safe food handling, disposal, and production.
The Healthy Choice Food Box program is a vital component of DFR’s mission to increase access to healthy food options for all Denver residents, particularly those in underserved communities. This program is the result of a partnership with Healthy Food for Denver Kids, an initiative that aims to ensure Denver’s youth have access to healthy food options. In this program, more than 500 boxes of fresh produce are delivered to households with youth each month. What makes this program unique is that participants will get to choose between two different box arrangements, which provides them with greater autonomy and flexibility in choosing the fruits and vegetables that best suit their needs.

Program Overview

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In 2016, a group of forward-thinkers from three Denver organizations came together from Denver Food Rescue, Denver Urban Gardens, and Groundwork Denver to pilot a new idea that would become Fresh Food Connect. They asked, "If gardeners had an easy avenue to participate in hunger relief efforts, would they?" The answer was a resounding YES!

Thus, Fresh Food Connect was created, giving gardeners easy access to donate their extra produce. Fresh Food Connect is a tech-based non-profit that engages gardeners to easily donate excess garden produce to hunger relief organizations in their area.

5454.36 lbs of produce were picked up from community gardeners

79 Gardeners contributed produce from their home gardens

7 Couriers traveled 701.87 miles by electric bike for 318 deliveries
Donors play a crucial role in making this mission possible. They are 42 businesses and organizations that contribute surplus food from grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other sources to Denver Food Rescue. These donations enable the organization to redistribute food to over 20 partner sites, including schools, community centers, and homeless shelters.

The generosity of Denver Food Rescue donors has a significant impact on the communities they serve. DFR 2022 donors are: 5280 Produce, Albert's Organics, Alpines Summit Sales, Asia Mart, Bon Appetite Regis, Boulder Sausage, Carmel Partners, Central Park Sprouts, City Harvest, City Park FM, Colfax Sprouts, Colo Pac, Data Dog, East Denver Food Hub, Evolve HQ, Food Bank of the Rockies, Fresh Food Connect, Fresh Pack Produce, Highlands FM, Locavore, Longmont Packing, Means Database, Metro Caring, Mississipp Sprouts, Pacific Ocean Market, Parker Trader Joes, Pinemelon, Prodigy, and Replate.
Asia Mart is a small business in Denver that has become one of the biggest donors to DFR. Their donations have played a vital role in helping to provide fresh and healthy food to our community. Their commitment to donating locally is an excellent example of how small businesses can make a big impact in their communities.

**Food Donors Highlights**

**Central Park Sprouts**

CP Sprouts is DFR's largest donor, providing a consistent supply of fresh and healthy food to our community. Not only are they generous, but they are also a pleasure to work with, demonstrating a genuine commitment to their community. As a result, central Park Sprouts serves as an excellent model of a grocery store that prioritizes community impact and social responsibility.

**Miller Farms**

Miller Farms has become one of Denver Food Rescue's most significant donor by contributing fresh produce through the Farmers' Markets. Miller Farms' generous donations have helped to improve the health and well-being of many Denver residents who lack access to nutritious food.

**Asia Mart**

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Volunteers Data

Total Volunteers

150

Total Hours Donated

2,502

Total Food Rescued in Lbs

664,699.54+

Tons of CO2 Saved

396.37

Equivalence In Cars Driven Daily For A Year

86

Volunteer With Us

SCAN ME
E-Bikes

E-Bikes Data

40 volunteers used Our E-bikes in 2022

40,208.8 Lbs of Food Rescued Using E-Bikes

DFR's volunteers rode the E-Bikes for over 2,643.14 miles in 2022

LOVE
Impact Summary 2022

- 20 NCGPS Locations
- 20,000 People served
- 664,699.54+ lbs
- $3 Millions
- 29 Zip Codes
- 150 Volunteers
- 79 Gardeners
- 5454.36 lbs donated garden surplus