



**FOOD IS FREE ALBUQUERQUE**

Fresh Food Is A Human Right

# ANNUAL NONPROFIT REPORT

Encouraging social empowerment  
through the growing and sharing  
of fresh food.



FRESH FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT

# IN REFLECTION

01

Food Is Free Albuquerque had its start in sheer astonishment.

The astonishment of the abundant fruit, the generosity of strangers, and the need for a community. We were well-meaning volunteers, determined to make a difference in the grassroots of Albuquerque.

The past eight years have brought changes and sidequests. 2020 offered the most significant opportunities and growth for FIFABQ. We saw the need in our neighborhoods and have responded. We have grown into the city's most impactful gleaning organization, **providing over 400,000 servings of fresh food to our community.**

Consistently found in the top ranks for food insecurity, lowest per capita income, and drought-impacted, New Mexico is an ideal location to demonstrate the impacts of gleaning. **An estimated 1+ million pounds of fresh food grows annually in the yards of Greater Albuquerque Area residents.** Most of this valuable commodity is wasted. With fresh foods being one of the most requested items from food distribution organizations, gleaning helps fill this niche by providing local in-season produce.

Over the past eight years, this community-powered gleaning program has **redistributed 85,000+ pounds of backyard produce.** Originally started by two moms, their kids, and laundry baskets, FIFABQ has grown into a community fixture entrusted by homeowners, farmers, and organizations. Demand for services has exploded. Volunteer registrations increased by 700%+. Harvest calendars were booked six weeks out. Since 2020, 52,000+ pounds were harvested and distributed, making up 61% of the combined eight years.

**FIFABQ's audacious goal is for Albuquerque to become the first city to utilize 100% of its human-edible, locally-grown produce within its community.** While it will take several years to accomplish, we are not daunted. We are inspired.

We extend our greatest gratitude to all who have gotten us here and redefined the power of commUnity.

Fresh Food Is a Human Right.







# OUR 2022 GOALS

02

1

## Create Better Systems

Program success is built upon good systems. This covers everything from volunteer management, to program flows, and backend support.

FIFABQ better developed how our harvesting program works. Our booking system was streamlined to make it easier for our homeowners to schedule a harvest and for volunteers to be involved in these opportunities.

These improvements kept our harvesting calendars full weeks in advance and engaged 350+ volunteers.

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## Further Organizational Education

In order to grow, we needed to grow our minds. Thanks to a generous grant from CNM, we gained knowledge in human resources and management, as well as a deeper understanding of digital marketing. These topics were part of the CNM Ingenuity Program and strengthened foundational practices for our nonprofit. Likewise, thanks to another grant from the Association of Gleaning Organizations, our Leadership could attend the International Gleaning Symposium, where organizations, lawmakers, and activists nationwide build the bridge between food waste and hunger on a national level.

2

## Hire Lead Harvesters

This goal was lofty. FIFABQ had not had the opportunity to staff and pay Lead Harvesters. Until 2022, our Leads were purely volunteers who assisted in their free time, with our main harvester being our Executive Director, Erin. Thanks to the City of Albuquerque & Honeywell Food is Free ABQ was able to hire 3 Lead Harvesters for the 2022 season. These Leads have been with FIFABQ for a while - a few from the beginning. Anni, Samuel, and Kate allowed harvesting calendars to provide ample opportunities to our community and homeowners. We were able to accommodate the community better than ever before

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## Build Greater Connections

Our organization only succeeds when we connect with our community. This ranges from our dedicated volunteers to landowners, policymakers, and other local organizations and businesses. 2022 opened the door to conversations with our city policymakers, allowing FIFABQ to build programming within Camino Nuevo Youth Center and grow the Lead Harvester Program. We connected with more organizations feeding our community, from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, to Belen, and further. We look forward to building more bridges in 2023.

# 2022 IMPACT

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graph TD; A((2022 IMPACT)) --- B((786 HOURS SPENT HARVESTING)); A --- C((300 THOUSAND POUNDS OF CARBON OFFSET)); A --- D((24,967 POUNDS HARVESTED & SHARED)); B --- E((351 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED)); B --- F((51 ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED DONATIONS FROM FIFABQ)); C --- G((57,000 SEEDS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY)); C --- H((1,872 SEEDLINGS SHARED)); D --- I((151,116 SERVINGS OFFERED)); D --- J((31 VARIETIES OF FRESH PRODUCE)); G --- K((460,800 POSSIBLE POUNDS OF FOOD CREATED FROM SHARED SEEDS)); H --- K;
```

**786**

HOURS SPENT  
HARVESTING

**\$3.19**

ORGANIZATIONAL  
COST TO HARVEST  
AND DISTRIBUTE  
ONE POUND OF  
PRODUCE

**351**

VOLUNTEERS  
ENGAGED

**300  
THOUSAND**

POUNDS OF  
CARBON OFFSET

**51**

ORGANIZATIONS  
RECEIVED  
DONATIONS  
FROM FIFABQ

**24,967  
POUNDS**

HARVESTED  
& SHARED

**57,000**

SEEDS  
DISTRIBUTED  
THROUGHOUT THE  
COMMUNITY

**1,872**

SEEDLINGS  
SHARED

**151,116**

SERVINGS  
OFFERED

**31**

VARIETIES OF  
FRESH PRODUCE

**460,800**

POSSIBLE POUNDS  
OF FOOD CREATED  
FROM SHARED SEEDS



# We thank you for your ongoing support of our program

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## 2022 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FIFABQ would not be possible without the community surrounding us. Our hardworking volunteers, generous produce donors, funders, businesses, and goodwill do-ers.

### Local Support

- Silver Leaf Farms
- Alameda Greenhouse
- Jackalope Albuquerque
- Bachechi Open Space
- The Food Depot
- Soilutions
- Lee Goodwin
- Tree New Mexico
- Albuquerque Insight Meditation Center
- ABQ Master Composters
- Local Gardeners
- Healthy Soils Work Group
- City of Albuquerque
- Camino Nuevo Youth Center
- Wheels Museum
- Commissioner Adriann Barboa
- Representative Natalie Figueroa
- Representative Gail Chasey
- Representative Marian Matthews
- Representative Kay Bounkeua
- City Manager Julie Morgas Baca
- Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty
- Councilor Pat Davis
- Mayor Keller (Capital Outlay)
- Roots Farm Cafe
- Rio Grande Food Project
- Libros For Kids
- Read To Me
- Cadence Design Systems, Inc.
- OpenEye Scientific Software, Inc.
- New Mexico Healthy Soils
- FIFABQ Board Members
- Siembra Leadership High School
- Polk's Folly Farm

### Local Support Continued

- Burque Taco Club
- The Street Food Institute
- Tractor Brewing Company
- Facebook Group: Growing FOOD in & Around ALBUQUERQUE & Foraging Too

### Lead Harvesters

- Erin Garrison
- Anni Telfer
- Samuel Sullivan
- Kate Gelnett

### Top Financial Contributors

- Token Ibis
- Scott Family Foundation
- La Montanita Food Co-op
- Honeywell
- ABQ Involved
- One Community Auto
- United Way

### CommUnity Supporters

- Tim & Lucia Amsden
- Heather Brislen
- Patrick Burton
- Julie Cason
- Paula Duvall
- Jennifer Burstein
- Gayle Geis O'Dowd
- Jolie LaBrot
- Byron & Tania Lindsey
- Chris Perkins
- Teryl Fadgen
- Caitlin Anderson
- Steven Nunez
- Edwina Rifenbury
- Hundreds of Fantastic Volunteers

# COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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Thank you to the groups and organizations, large and small, who support alleviating food insecurity throughout our State and promote sustainable food solutions for our communities.

## CommUnity Partners

- Casa Esperanza
- Afghan Refugees
- Peace & Justice Center
- El Centro
- East Mountain Food Pantry
- Food Depot
- First Nations Wellness
- Rio Grande Food Project
- Good Shepard
- Expect a Miracle
- Hopeworks
- National Night Out
- Coronado Park
- People Helping People
- Youth Ministry
- Joy Junction
- The Storehouse
- Valencia County Senior Center
- Bosque Farms Seniors Center
- Peralta Seniors Center
- Los Lunas Seniors Center
- First Unitarian Church
- Pantry on Tapia
- Pantry on 8th & Pacific
- UNM Lobo Pantry

## CommUnity Partners Continued

- Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Atrisco High Culinary Arts
- Los Padillas Food Distribution
- Serenity Mesa Youth Recovery Center
- St Elizabeth's
- Women's Health Coalition
- Central New Mexico Treatment Center
- ABQ Really Free Mkt
- S. Valley Farm Collective
- Roadrunner Food Bank
- New Mexico Pueblos
- Mutual Aid
- ABQ Free Fridge
- New Day
- Juvenile Justice Center
- Veterans Integration Center
- Youth Development, Inc. (YDI)
- God's Warehouse
- ABQFW Refugee Resettlement
- International District Healthy Community Coalition
- Lobo Garden
- Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women

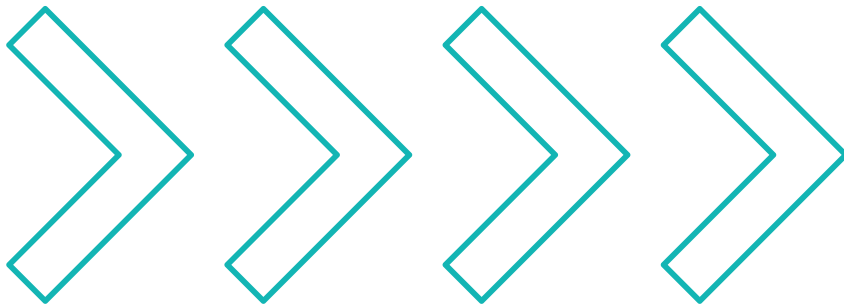


06

I wanted to take a moment and simply say Thank You for all the wonderful eggplant and onions that were provided to New Seasons' Treatment Center.

The produce was disbursed on Saturday 09/17/2022, providing 300 people with a nutritional meal. We appreciate Food is Free and the impact you have in the Albuquerque community for basic Human Rights.

• DENISE



## A 80,000 POUND MILESTONE

In September 2022, FIFABQ celebrated the 40th TON of fresh food harvested within our commUnity.

# Food is Free Albuquerque grows to meet commUnity needs

### : CITIES HARVESTED :

Albuquerque - Santa Fe - Peralta - Belen - Pojoaque  
White Rock - Rio Rancho - Corrales - South Valley  
Bosque Farms - Tijeras - Cedar Crest - Sandia Heights  
Bernalillo - Seton Village



# Environmental Impacts

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**Food waste not only affects commUnity members facing food insecurity, but the environmental impacts of food waste is extreme**

According to the EPA, food waste produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Globally, food waste contributes to over 8% of total greenhouse gas emissions, a large contributor to climate change.

Redirecting food from the landfill to the people is a win on multiple fronts. We are benefitting our neighbors through nutrition and climate.

**2022**

**POUNDS OF CO<sub>2</sub> DIVERTED  
300,070.26**



# Hip Hip Hooray for Our Volunteers!

Since 2020, FIFABQ's volunteer base has grown by 1155%!

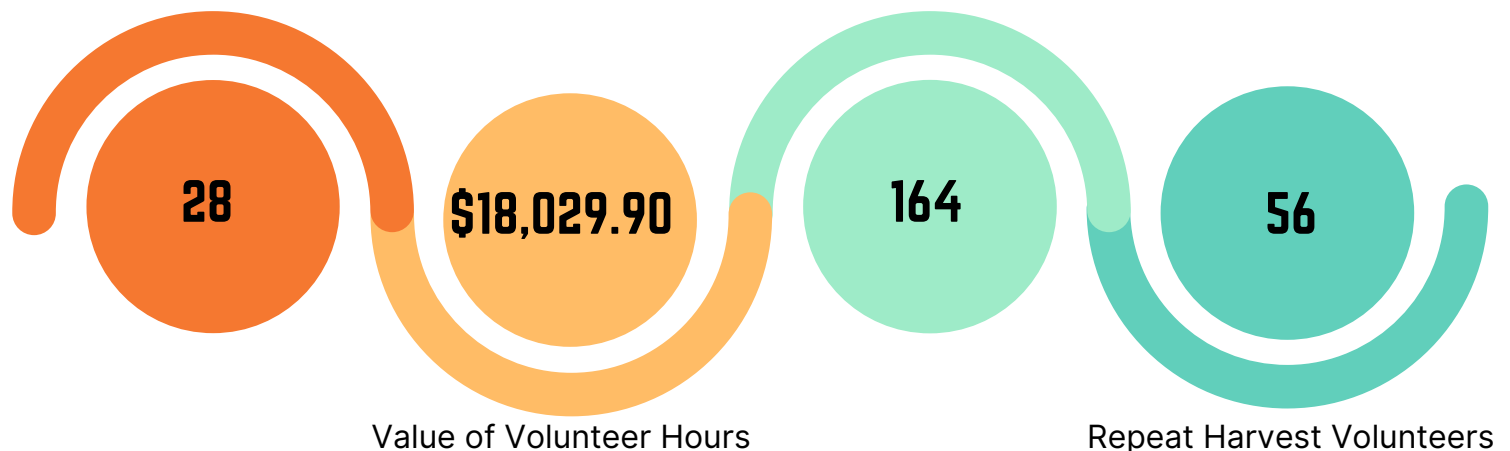
In 2022, 351 volunteers were engaged in commUnity efforts - from our Annual Seed Share to our Seasonal Harvesting Program.

Our volunteers contributed to the 786 hours our organization spent harvesting in our efforts to reduce food insecurity.

We could not have accomplished all that 2022 brought without their help!

Kiddos who joined Harvests

Volunteer Oppotunities







"This was a wonderful experience for us. The gleaners were charming young people who were respectful of our property. They came exactly on time and were very professional. We were so glad that our harvest did not go to waste."

**FRUIT DONOR**  
2022



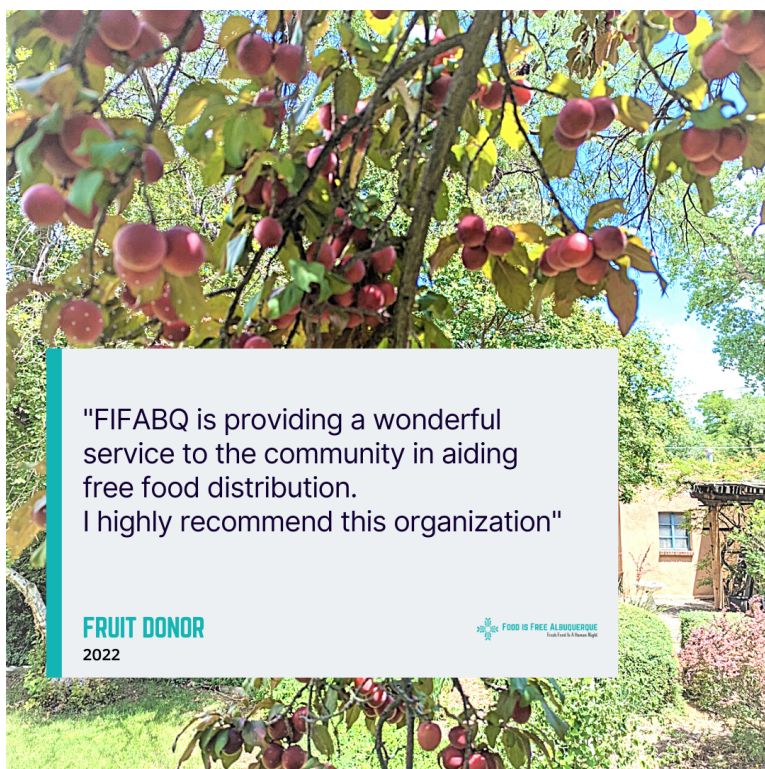
"I loved the young women who came to pick the fruit. Kate and Erin are particularly wonderful. They all took great care with the fruit."

**FRUIT DONOR**  
2022



"Anni and her team of 4 were exceptional! We are so happy and relieved that our fruit is helping others"

**FRUIT DONOR**  
2022



"FIFABQ is providing a wonderful service to the community in aiding free food distribution. I highly recommend this organization"

**FRUIT DONOR**  
2022



"Gleaners were professional and knowledgeable. I love that you offer this service to get abundant fruit to where it can do the most good!"

**FRUIT DONOR**  
2022



"It was a relief to be able to dispose of the excess harvest without tossing it into the trash can. Next time, I will contact FIFABQ earlier in the season."

**FRUIT DONOR**  
2022





# THANK YOU

Our team is actively working toward FIFABQ's goal to become the first city to utilize 100% of its human-edible, locally-grown produce within its community. We move closer with each volunteer hour, land owner, financial contribution, and commUnity connection.

We are making fruitful efforts to expand our reach. We hope to procure a physical location that will enable better storage, increase our distribution capabilities, and work with even more hunger relief organizations and commUnity members.

For 2023, we are implementing new systems, which will help us to better visualize the statewide abundance, distributing organizations, and commUnity impacts. This will benefit future harvesting, events, and programming.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### Donate

Your contribution goes a long way in supporting food security within our commUnity. You are impacting our neighborhood health and well-being in New Mexico.

[fifabq.org/donate](https://fifabq.org/donate)

### Volunteer

Throughout the year, FIFABQ offers dozens of volunteer opportunities. There is something for every skill set. From harvesting to seed sharing to back-end, we welcome everyone to make a difference.

[bit.ly/FIFABQVolunteer](https://bit.ly/FIFABQVolunteer)

### Share

Do you have an abundance on your land? Are you a Seed Shaver? Are you a prolific seed starter? Reach out to us to schedule a harvest or prepare for a commUnity distribution event.

[fifabq.org/book-online](https://fifabq.org/book-online) or email [volunteer@fifabq.org](mailto:volunteer@fifabq.org)

### Follow



@foodisfreealbuquerque