



food is free abq

By ERIC GARRISON, Executive Director, Food Is Free

Have you ever experienced a sequence of events in your life seemingly out of nowhere? Everything just falls into place, so easily it feels like it might be magic?

Happy little accidents. That's what I call them.

Hard work and tenacity aren't accidents, I know. But when all the pieces come together, doesn't the work suddenly seem easier? This is the story of Food is Free Albuquerque. Sequences of events, perfectly and imperfectly timed, and met with determination. A combination that launched the group to where it is today.

Did you know there's a tree hidden in Albuquerque that is 35 years old and sprawling throughout an entire backyard? In 2015 this one tree yielded nearly 700 pounds of edible apricots!

Six years ago, two women simply looking to harvest apples for their families fell across a problem that homeowners face nearly every season — fallen, wasted fruit. For us, an online ad seeking fresh fruit started it all. Food is Free Albuquerque (FIFABQ) has now been working cooperatively with homeowners, orchardists, and farmers for 6 years, harvesting whatever excess their crop has produced that season. The 2019 growing season saw over 14,000 pounds of fresh food rescued and distributed through the city. And that's just one of our programs.

But we still need you! When community members volunteer their time, ideas, support, and resources, these movements are given wings to fly.

Here's another happy accident. Did you know there's a tree hidden in this city that is 35 years old and sprawling throughout an entire backyard? In 2015 this one tree yielded nearly 700 pounds of edible



apricots. Just one tree created such an abundance! And yet our state experiences some of the highest rates of food insecurity in the nation as the food falls all around us.

Albuquerque has the solution: Food is Free Albuquerque and community members like you. Each of these trees gives their everything to give us a little something. Some are happy little accidents, surprising homeowners with the immense amount of harvest their tree produces. Let's not waste the hard work of those trees.

The mission of FIFABQ is to identify resources and use them wisely in our path forward because fresh food is a human right. Every person on this planet deserves access to quality, fresh food. FIFABQ is working toward that goal, with each apple being passed from one hand to another with kindness. With your help, we can create compassionate networks of humans helping humans.

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It's all one happy little accident that we've found our way to you and can share the treasures our vibrant community has to offer. Welcome to the team — we never would have gotten where we are if it wasn't for you.

co-op community — food is free

ALL PHOTOS courtesy of Food Is Free