Dear DFR Community,

My last full year as the Executive Director was a year of measurable, big wins. With big, exciting wins comes the temptation to believe that the wins are the whole point of the organization itself. In reality, we know some of the most valuable work is much harder to quantify, or even see. I implore you, if passing laws, growing programs, and winning awards is not the point, what is the real work?

The **real work** is when No Cost Grocery Programs are led by residents of the communities in which they operate, and the power to create solutions residing with people who experience the issues we exist to address.

The **real work** is having a resident-led Board of Directors who represent the concerns and experiences of their neighbors.

The **real work** is scary and exhausting. It challenges everything we have been told about making positive change. It humbles us, and asks us to think critically about how we make the best – versus the most – impact.

As my tenure as Executive Director comes to a close, I am most proud of our community’s dedication to this important work. In the 2018 DFR Annual Report, you will read all about our big wins from last year, and I hope you take the time to celebrate the real work, too.

United in the real work,

Turner Wyatt, Founder
Mission:
Producing Health Equity with Denver Neighborhoods.

At DFR we embrace the following Core Values:

Health equity
Health is a right that should be enjoyed by everyone.

Food security
Each individual deserves to have control of their own food situation.

Integration of feedback
Lasting solutions will only be formed through consistent and authentic engagement with people who are experiencing the issues we exist to address.
TOP STORIES OF 2018

Fresh Food Connect Continues to Flourish

This year was the biggest yet for Fresh Food Connect (FFC). Founded in 2016, FFC rescues the excess produce from backyards and community gardens. Youth employees promote the project and deliver produce to DFR’s No Cost Grocery Programs. With the dream of growing FFC nationally on our minds, and generous support from the Morgridge Family Foundation, FFC received the funds needed to start scaling up and out. In late 2018, FFC became its own 501(c)3, moved the headquarters to Dallas, and Candace Chandra joined as CEO.

Bondadosa Continues to Blossom

DFR founded Abbarotes Bondadosa (AB) to further increase access to healthy food. AB uses technology to deliver groceries, focusing on serving members of the Latinx community who experience barriers to accessing groceries. In 2018, CEO and co-founder Ricardo Rocha was successful in expanding service in the Denver metro area and hired AB’s first staff! DFR is excited to see Bondadosa gain momentum in the fast-moving, social enterprise start-up scene, and we look forward to its continued growth throughout Colorado and the United States.

Ordinance 302 Takes Root in Denver

DFR reached a major milestone as an organization: we played an active role in changing policy! Ordinance 302 (Healthy Food For Denver Kids) was a community-run initiative to increase funding for healthy food provision and nutrition education for Denver kids. DFR raised $80,000 (approx. 80% of the total campaign budget) with generous support from the Colorado Health Foundation and Gary Community Investments - Piton Foundation. This initiative will raise more than $11 million per year to fund community organizations and programs that provide healthy food to Denver kids. We believe the funding that Ordinance 302 will generate over the next decade will make a lasting impact on the health and education of an entire generation of Denver youth.

5th Annual Forward Food Summit Pollinates Food Justice Conversation

The Forward Food Summit is a bilingual, food justice “un-conference” with a focus on race and class equity, and community-based solutions. In 2018, Denver Food Rescue worked closely with Food Rescue Alliance partners along Colorado’s Front Range to host the 5th annual Summit. This year, the agenda focused on the root causes of injustice, poverty, and oppression through the lenses of food access, food security, and community sustainability.
Denver Food Rescue supports a hyper-local food distribution method. “Hyper-local” doesn’t just refer to the mileage between food donor and recipient; it also extends to the origination of the food, and the ways in which food systems and food recovery structures operate.

For example, much of the produce is donated by local farmer’s markets during the summer months. The miles that the donated food travels (from Colorado farms to Colorado tables) are fewer than federally-sourced foodstuffs sourced by traditional food assistance programs.

**How it works**

DFR establishes a donation schedule for food donors. Food donors include grocery stores, wholesale distributors, farmers markets, food service providers, corner stores/bodegas, and individual, local gardeners.

**Food Donations by Type**

- 82.67% Produce
- 4.1% Dairy
- 6.3% Fresh prepared
- 3% Baked goods
- 4% Meat
- 4% Meat

**No Cost Grocery Programs**

Community volunteers oversee operation of programs and food distribution. Programs are established via Request for program to empower community leaders.

On average, a site gets 3,546 pounds of food per month.

In 2018, 4,049 individuals “shopped” for free groceries!

**Volunteers**

Rescue shift volunteers often work in teams to pick up food donations. Biking together creates a sense of community. (Our “Sunday shifters” have weekly soup nights!)

Some food donations weigh in at over 1,000 pounds! Multiple cyclists will team up for these shifts to lighten the load for each other.

200+ 200 volunteers picked up 1,488 shifts in 2018.

Farthest ride? 11 miles, roundtrip.
Average ride? 4 miles, roundtrip.

Average shift length: car ~1 hour; bike ~2 hours.

Average weight of a donation pickup? 500 pounds.

**Board of Directors**

Board members are nominated from participating NCGP communities. DFR is dedicated to empowering members from affected communities to lead the development and implementation of solutions in a culturally-sensitive and responsive way.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric Swan</td>
<td>Board President, Park Hill Resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julio Flores</td>
<td>Branch Director, Cope Boys and Girls Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Castañeda</td>
<td>Elyria Swansea community member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Harper</td>
<td>Sun Valley community member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica Augden</td>
<td>Project Worthmore community representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Senghor</td>
<td>Montbello resident, Academy 360 volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janelle Jenkins</td>
<td>Clayton Early Learning Center community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena Zasueta</td>
<td>Montbello resident, KIPP school community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Reyes</td>
<td>Ricardo Flores Magon Academy community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Rivera</td>
<td>Ricardo Flores Magon Academy community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe Burciaga</td>
<td>Ricardo Flores Magon Academy community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernadette Zambrano</td>
<td>Sister Gardens community representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Impact**

Food in landfills generate a significant amount of greenhouse gases. By redistributing good, fresh food, DFR has...

Saved 85,098,476 gallons of water.

Saved 475,088 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

- 82.67% Produce
- 4.1% Dairy
- 6.3% Fresh prepared
- 3% Baked goods
- 4% Meat

WHO MAKES THIS WORK POSSIBLE?
Sun Valley
Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center – community center
From the founder, Glenn Harper: “Partnering with Denver Food Rescue for the last three years to provide Sun Valley’s No Cost Grocery program has had an enormous impact on our community. In addition to offering fresh produce to our neighbors we have also experienced a strengthening of relationships among our incredibly diverse population.”

Elyria-Swansea
Growhaus – nonprofit indoor farm, marketplace, and educational center
“As one of our closest partners, Denver Food Rescue in 2018 helped to distribute over 48,000 lbs of ‘rescued’ groceries to our community through Cosechando Salud, our No-Cost Grocery Program. This strong partnership allows for increased access to healthy food, while working towards reducing food waste. Together, we continue making strides in the local food system and working towards the betterment of our community.”
– Salvador Gonzalez, Growhaus

Montbello
KIPP Northeast Elementary School – public, charter elementary school
Powered by parent volunteers who see that families receive fresh healthy food all year long, this No Cost Grocery Program distributes over 3,000 pounds of food every week! From Audrey Senghor, NCGP volunteer, “our relationship has - and continues to be - community focused as we strive to obtain food and health equity. Our thanks to DFR for its support.”
The community focus of Denver Food Rescue extends into every aspect of our operations and fundraising. See how all of our contributors and community partners contribute their time, talent, and treasure to make this important work possible.

Number of volunteers in 2018:
- 200 (rough est.)

Number of volunteer hours worked for volunteer pickup and food distribution at NCGP sites:
- 14,600

Average food pickup/delivery shift:
- Car: 1 hour
- Bike: ~2 hours

How many bike and car shifts we ran in 2018:
- 1,488

Busiest month:
- June was our busiest month with 128 shifts!

Average weight of a food donation pickup:
- 500 lbs

2018 Operations Goals/Actual

Pounds of Food Rescued
Goal: 500,000 → Actual: 671,940

Emphasis on Fresh Produce
Goal: 80% → Actual: 82.6%

FISCAL DONATIONS BY TYPE

$142,000 | Grants
$101,769 | Government
$61,997 | Individual Donations
$45,467 | Corporate Donations
$37,756 | Food Rescue Ride

FOOD DONORS BY TYPE

347,986 lbs (51.79%) Whole Sale Distributors (7)
273,154 lbs (40.65%) Grocery Stores (7)
21,298 lbs (03.17%) Food Service Providers (5)
17,402 lbs (02.59%) Farmer's Market (4)
7,900 lbs (01.18%) Corner Stores / Bodegas (4)
4,200 lbs (00.63%) Individual Farmers (133)

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**2018 INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

- **55.2%**: $100–$500
- **10.9%**: $501–$1,000
- **9.9%**: $1,001–$2,000
- **16.5%**: >$2,000
- **7.5%**: <$100

**Average individual donor gift:** $139

**Average gift for a recurring donor:** $22

**Average corporate sponsorship:** $872

**2018 KEY FISCAL CONTRIBUTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DONOR</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Colorado Health Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$389,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City and County of Denver</td>
<td>government</td>
<td>$91,769</td>
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<td>Whole Foods Market</td>
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<td>Hawthorn PNC Family Wealth</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
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<td>A.V. Hunter Trust</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anschutz Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Community Investments</td>
<td>Piton Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kenneth King Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Real Dill</td>
<td>corporate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anschutz Family Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
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<td>Records-Johnston Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Melvin and Elaine Wolf Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Shares of Colorado</td>
<td>foundation</td>
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<td>Aegon Transamerica Foundation</td>
<td>foundation</td>
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<td>Phoenix Capital</td>
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<td>Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<td>RSF Global Community Fund</td>
<td>foundation</td>
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<td>The Community Foundation of Utah</td>
<td>foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network for Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fidelity Brokerage Services</td>
<td>corporate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zim Consulting Sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yawp Cyclery</td>
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<td>$760</td>
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<td>Megastar Financial Corporation</td>
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<td>Baere Brewing Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kave Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Anne’s Episcopal School I</td>
<td>corporate</td>
<td>$550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2019, DFR is on track to share 1.3 million pounds of groceries with 75,000 individuals in 23 locations across Denver.

What you can do today

Donate
Your fiscal donation goes a long way for a lean organization like DFR. If you would like to contribute, please donate online or contact our development coordinator. We invite you to give online or send a check to: Denver Food Rescue, P.O. Box 18890, Denver, CO 80218

We always welcome new food donors! Contact Operations Director, Amy Moore-Shipley, at amy@denverfoodrescue.org to get started.

Partner with us
We love partnering with like minded businesses for in-kind donations and sponsorships for events. Please contact us at info@denverfoodrescue.org.

Want to create a new No Cost Grocery Program in your community? Contact Program Director Terri House at terri@denverfoodrescue.org.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Visit our website to learn more about ways to volunteer at DFR and sign up to attend a New Volunteer Orientation.

Interview with volunteers Maria Reyes and Juana Cortez from Ricardo Flores Magon Academy.

How long have you been volunteering with RFMA?
The whole school year [2018].

Why did you start volunteering?
**Maria Reyes:** Because we like it. We like helping other people. We want our community to have access to different resources and one of these is food. A lot of these families are poor. We believe they should have access to this benefit. This is why we do it – for our community and our school, in particular...

**Juana Cortez:** You don’t feel like it’s a job when it is something that you are doing for your community. We do it so that our people can have something free.

We like helping other people. We want our community to have access to different resources and one of these is food. A lot of these families are poor. We believe they should have access to this benefit. This is why we do it for our community and our school in particular...

–Maria Reyes

“Let’s continue to strengthen the foundation that has been set for us – to not only feed stomachs but also souls. Let’s continue to educate our communities and create leaders.”
–Christine Alford
Dear DFR Community,

While we continue to lead by example, we will encourage and uplift other food assistance organizations to implement community-led, volunteer-driven, health-focused programming.

My passion for this work lives in community empowerment, making it possible for families to make the best decisions for themselves and their children.

Ultimately, how can we call ourselves leaders and love our neighbors if we are not concerned with the barriers to access they experience as they seek out basic needs?

How could we enjoy a full meal with our families and loved ones while sitting with the knowledge that 1 out of every 7 children are missing a meal that day?

Even as we recognize and celebrate the achievements the Denver Food Rescue volunteers, staff, and community leaders have made, I ask you all to remain steadfast in pursuit of our mission of health equity and commitment to uplifting the voices of those who are experiencing the very issues that we seek to address. Food security does so much more than feed bodies; it is a foundation to flourish in mind, body, and spirit. No matter what social challenge one faces, without food security there is no foundation to build on, no strength to combat those everyday struggles, and no community to embrace and empower.

Let’s continue to strengthen the foundation that has been set for us – to not only feed stomachs but also souls. Let’s continue to educate our communities and create leaders.

Food is medicine,

Christine Alford, Executive Director