

# SHARING THE HARVEST

## Wendy

**She may just be in the 7th grade, but Wendy is determined to achieve her dream job: becoming a law enforcement officer.**

The bubbly 12-year-old is a student at Risley International Academy. She works hard to get good grades, and is a busy-bee outside of school. She plays the violin and the piano. On top of that, she runs track, plays basketball, and participates in volleyball games at the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County.

Wendy knows she needs to be able to focus if she wants to reach her goals and be successful, but she admits, there were times when she didn't have the energy. She was hungry. "It was bad," Wendy said. "You wake up in the morning and you're very tired and you can't eat anything until food arrives in your classroom."

She's not the only student who has felt that way. **One out of five kids struggle with hunger in Southern Colorado.** That's why Care and Share Food Bank is putting great efforts into our Children's Programs - like Send Hunger Packing and Healthy Kids Club. No child should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

**In 2016, Care and Share Food Bank partnered with Risley International and opened a School Pantry.** Wendy says she stops by and picks up canned food, like fruits and vegetables. "I like the potatoes because they actually give us a whole sack. They give us frozen foods sometimes too, which helps my family," she said. There isn't a grocery store in their neighborhood, but because of the School Pantry, Wendy says her parents don't have to drive far to get food. "It means a lot to me because it's really helping, not only my family, but I think other people's families too," said Wendy. When asked how she would describe the School Pantry in one word, Wendy responded: Amazing.



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—WENDY

Holiday  
preview  
**INSIDE!**



# 'Tis the Season to Give - and Give Back!

Looking for great ways to fight hunger this holiday season? We have plenty! You can make a generous gift, host a food drive, sponsor a virtual food drive, launch an online fundraiser, or participate in one of our special holiday events!

Harvest of Love



**TAKE A  
TURKEY TO  
WORK DAY**

**HARVEST OF LOVE** is back and is a great way to get your kids involved in the holiday spirit of giving. In addition to our school drives from November 1st through the 17th, you're invited to join KKTV 11 News, KCCY 96.9, and Security Federal Credit Union on **Saturday, November 4**, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at all area King Soopers locations to collect food for our neighbors in need. Thank you to Hertz for their transportation support during Harvest of Love.

**TAKE A TURKEY TO WORK DAY**, with KCCY 96.9, KKTV 11 News, and Security Service Federal Credit Union, is **Friday, November 17**, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Leading up to the day of the event, organize an office collection, and on the 17th, deliver your frozen turkeys to the **King Soopers** listed below. Thank you to CenturyLink for providing transportation.

9225 N Union Blvd. 80920  
7915 Constitution Ave. 80951  
2910 S Academy Blvd. 80916  
3520 Centennial Blvd. 80907



**EMPTY STOCKING FUND** helps local health and human service agencies in the Pikes Peak region serve families in crisis and assist others in attaining self-sufficiency. Care and Share is proud to be a recipient agency. The 34th annual campaign begins November 23, 2017. Learn how you can help at: [fillanemptystocking.org/recipient-agencies](http://fillanemptystocking.org/recipient-agencies).



**COLORADO GIVES DAY** is **Tuesday, December 5**. Join this statewide effort to help thousands of neighbors in need. Your gift will go even further because a portion of donations are matched by a \$1 million Incentive Fund! Schedule your gift starting November 1 at: [coloradogives.org/careandshare/overview](http://coloradogives.org/careandshare/overview).



Host a Holiday **CARE DRIVE**. It's an easy way to give back this holiday season. It's simple. You can collect food donations, or raise funds through our online platform.

Learn more about our virtual food drives by going to [careandshare.org/getinvolved](http://careandshare.org/getinvolved)

*Whether it's time, money, food, or all three, your gift will help fill the plates of people facing hunger in Southern Colorado this holiday season.*





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### LONSKY FAMILY

Linda Lonsky is a mother of four. She knew she wanted her kids to volunteer and give back to the community when they were all old enough. She found the perfect opportunity - our Send Hunger Packing Program. "We were able to bring all of the kids. They've never known what it's like to be hungry, and it gave them a chance to help," said Linda.

That was eight years ago. To this day, Linda and her youngest two kids, Valerie and Julius, still volunteer at our distribution center. They are some



of our most dedicated volunteers, coming in every Tuesday morning to help pack bags of food for school kids across Southern Colorado.

Julius was nine when he first started volunteering at Care and Share Food Bank. Eight years later, he says he has a different perspective on

*continued on page 4*

## Follow the Watermelon

On a crisp fall morning, Steve Mauro supervises as hundreds of pounds of freshly harvested watermelon are loaded into a Care and Share truck. Mauro Farms, his family-owned farm in Pueblo, Colorado, sells hundreds of thousands of pounds of watermelon, corn, and other fresh produce to Care and Share each year at a discounted rate.

A few hours later, volunteer Paul helps unload the watermelon from the truck at our Colorado Springs distribution center and checks each to be sure it's ready to be sent to our hungry neighbors.

The next day, two totes of watermelon head to Peak Vista's health center in Fountain, CO, to be distributed at a Mobile Food Pantry. A family with two young children walks back to their car, arms full with bags of apples, potatoes, and a watermelon. Tonight, everyone in their house will have a full plate at dinner and full stomachs as they fall asleep. They will be able to pay their electricity bill and still have a fully stocked pantry, unaware that the watermelon on their dinner plates was still growing on the vines at Mauro Farms just two days ago.



## BUSINESS CHAMPIONS

Gifts from organizations of every size are essential to feeding the one in seven people in Southern Colorado who struggle with hunger.

**THANK YOU!** We are sincerely grateful for the partnership of our Business Champions.

**Colorado Springs Airport**  
**Woodford Manufacturing Charities, Inc.**  
**Connecting Point Marketing Group, Inc.**

## THANKS TO OUR GRANT MAKERS

The support of our grant makers is vital to the work that we do. We would like to thank the following grant makers, who help us feed thousands of our neighbors in need every day. Thank you for your trust and generosity.

### May

Kaiser Permanente Colorado  
 MilkPEP Great American Milk Drive  
 E.M. & F.E. Charitable Trust  
 Southern Colorado Community Foundation  
 The Gazette  
 The Marson Foundation  
 Western Digital Corporation Fund

### June

CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation  
 Darden Foundation  
 The Gazette

### July

Kum & Go Charitable Fund  
 Sally Brown McInnes & John McInnes Charitable Trust  
 The Gazette  
 United Way of Pueblo County

*For more information about donating to Care and Share Food Bank, contact Shannon Brice, Chief Development Officer, at [Shannon@careandshare.org](mailto:Shannon@careandshare.org) or 719-434-4682.*

## LONSKY FAMILY *continued*

volunteering. "When I was nine, I just came here because my mom made me, but now I know that I'm actually helping people."

Valerie was twelve. She says she's made special memories through the years. "I remember a few years ago, we got to pack with some of the kids who receive the backpacks," said Valerie. "I remember working with one kid and went to go weigh the backpacks, and that was his favorite thing to do. And they were really excited to get a good meal. And that really shows you how fortunate we are, and how much fun it is to give back to those kids who are in need."

Valerie will soon be starting college. She says her time volunteering for Send Hunger Packing has inspired a passion for nutrition. "Care and Share really inspired me to become a nutritionist," said Valerie. "When I was trying to decide what I wanted to do, I thought about the work I had done here, and I wanted to continue doing that good work."

As for what motivates the Lonsky family to keep coming back? "We just love everything about serving at Care and Share - love working with the other volunteers who are so enthusiastic and so faithful to come every week," said Linda.

## CONTACT US

### Colorado Springs

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 Colorado Springs, CO 80915  
 Phone: 719-528-1247  
 Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm

### Pueblo

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 Pueblo, CO 81004  
 Phone: 719-296-6995  
 Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am to 3pm

**To learn more or to make a donation to Care and Share Food Bank, visit [careandshare.org](http://careandshare.org).**

