

SHARING THE HARVEST



“They don’t make you feel like you’re coming in for a ‘hand-out.’ I really appreciate that.”

—CARL

A SECOND HOME IN THE VALLEY

Carl has been visiting our partner food pantry, the Foodbank Network of the San Luis Valley, for the past four years. Each time, he brings along his joyful sidekick: his grandson, five-year-old Zachary.

“He loves coming here. He acts like it’s his second home,” Carl says. Zachary finds a book to read and enjoys a free candy bar while his grandpa picks out food items like potatoes, celery, onions, bread, meat, and canned goods.

Carl and his wife, who are both retired, have raised Zachary since he was an infant. They’ve lived in The Valley for a little more than a decade and love the area. Having access to nutritious food at their local pantry makes feeding their family a little easier. “The food we receive helps us, especially with raising the youngster. It helps with making sure we have enough food.”

Carl is not only grateful for the food they receive, but for the volunteers and staff who welcome them in.

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Carl’s 5-year-old grandson, Zachary

DISTRIBUTING FOOD DIRECTLY TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



You may have heard that during the months of November and December, Care and Share hosted Mobile Food Pantries at our Colorado Springs Distribution Center. **This break from the norm is the result of an ongoing partnership with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which is a conduit for millions of pounds of food every year.**

Through USDA programs, the federal government purchases food grown within the United States when there is more food than can be sold in stores. The USDA can determine that it is of greater benefit to the economy to buy the surplus product rather than letting it spoil and impact the subsequent year's production. When that happens, the USDA redistributes that food to communities facing hunger across the nation through Food Banks. It is this process that supplies much of the food that Care and Share distributes through The Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP for short.

In August 2018, it was announced that the USDA planned to purchase up to \$1.2 billion in food to help US growers and producers – this is in addition to the 740 million pounds of TEFAP food that Feeding America Food Banks, like Care and Share, distribute annually.

As the community expert in large scale food acquisition and distribution, Care and Share responded nimbly to the opportunity. Through this influx of fresh foods, Care and Share has been able to provide healthy options to local families during a time of year when money is often tight. Initially, we distributed “bonus” food through our partner agencies who already host food distributions via federal programs. As the amount of surplus food available through the USDA grew, so did Care and Share's need to quickly distribute the fresh foods, so it could nourish our hungry neighbors before it spoiled.

In two afternoons, with the help of dozens of volunteers and a couple of Sheriff's Deputies to direct traffic, we provided food to 825 families drive-thru style at our Colorado Springs facility. By comparison, we average about 255,000 pounds of food each month through TEFAP, across several counties. **The 90,000 pounds distributed out of Care and Share's parking lot was over the course of six hours!**

It is because of your dedicated and consistent support that Care and Share can maintain fluidity when challenging opportunities such as this arise. Your support allows us to respond quickly and effectively.



THE POWER OF LOCATION



Care and Share's location on Preamble Point offers capacity, community, and critical response. As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary in this building, we are reflecting upon accomplishments that were made possible because of our amazing facility.

Capacity — In ten years we've increased food distribution from just over 11 million pounds to almost 25 million pounds. We're serving 54,000 more hungry neighbors across our 31-county service area.

Community — Annual volunteer hours increased by 30,000 hours to achieve the remarkable growth in service. As a welcoming space for community partners, our building hosts a variety of events and we revel in the opportunity to introduce people to our operation.

Critical Response — We've been prepared and able to respond to disasters as they've struck. Most memorable are the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires, though our crisis response has reached across our entire service area.

To the donors that made this building possible, we thank you. This distribution center is our home, and your support will allow us to continue to serve more neighbors and keep our home in excellent condition.

HELP US SPREAD THE LOVE

We're always in need of peanut butter at the food bank because it's an easy and nutritious source of protein for hungry kids and families. During the week of Valentines Day,

February 11th-15th, stop by our distribution centers in Colorado Springs or Pueblo to drop off a jar of peanut butter (and jelly to make it a perfect pair). **For more information visit careandshare.org/spreadthelove**



FEED OUR NEIGHBORS CIRCLE

Join our sustaining donor society, Feed Our Neighbors Circle! Hunger is a year-round challenge for our neighbors in need. Through your monthly support, we can continue to provide consistent access to food for them. Payments can be set up through our website and automatically withdrawn from your bank. **Just \$10 a month can provide 80 meals.**

Visit careandshare.org/donate.



Ginger Kelly Volunteer Highlight Q&A

Q: What's your volunteer role at Care and Share?

A: I volunteer at the welcome desk; I do invoices, weigh food donations, greet our partners who come in to pick up food ... you name it.

Q: How did you hear about Care and Share?

A: I've known about Care and Share for a long time. A couple years ago I was hiking with a friend, and they asked, "Ok, so, when are you going to start volunteering?" and I came back and started here ... I got hooked immediately.

Q: Why did you get hooked?

A: There's a good staff here, good volunteers, and the agencies are great. I'm always busy, and this is much needed in the community.

Q: If you could describe Care and Share in one word, what would that word be?

A: Valuable.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: This is the best place on the planet to volunteer. I've been retired 13 years. I've volunteered at several other places. This is the only one that has kept me busy 100 percent of the time that I'm here and I feel like I'm really contributing to this community.

THANKS TO OUR MEAL MAKERS

We'd like to thank this quarter's Meal Makers — Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations that rally around our work — for their essential role in helping us provide thousands of meals to our neighbors in need.

Classic Homes

El Pomar Foundation

Ent Credit Union

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Hunger Is through Albertsons Companies and Safeway Foundation

J.E. Fehsenfeld Family Foundation

Red Nose Day Child Hunger Grant

Starbucks FoodShare through Feeding America

T. Rowe Price

T. Rowe Price Foundation

The Virginia W. Hill Foundation

USAA

Walmart Foundation

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To learn more or to make a donation to Care and Share Food Bank, visit careandshare.org.

