

**OVERVIEW OF THE
2015
HUNGER SUMMIT**



Mission Statement: Building the Awareness of hunger in the State of New Mexico by supporting underlying solutions that inspire self-sufficiency and community empowerment and support for a hunger-free tomorrow

2nd End Hunger in New Mexico Summit – September 23-24, 2015

- # of People at Summit - 400
- Keynote speakers addressed everything from hunger, healthcare, policy, employment, homelessness, poverty and programs being implemented in New Mexico. The focus was on our population of seniors, children, the working poor, homeless and our veterans.

- Children being #1 in the nation in childhood hunger and our seniors 2nd in the nation in senior hunger was talked about throughout the summit!
- Workshops were focused on the hunger issues but also several solutions to address food insecurity:
 - The opportunity of faith-based organizations collaborating together to join forces without duplicating services.
 - The resources for our homeless and low-income veterans thru the NM Veterans Integration Center.
 - Working together to source local food donations and building capacity so people are less dependent on food banks and keeping good local food local
 - Educating people about public assistance programs. Which includes state and federal funds. SNAP, WIC, CSFP, FNMP, and several food school programs for our children attending school
 - Financial basics on how to budget on a tight income
 - An overview of statewide Senior Program Services
 - Food Rescue in NM. The state's rampant food waste and how to solve this.
 - Eating healthy by using nutritional facts labels more easily and effectively.

- The struggles of food distribution to remote communities and ways to improve access to nutritious food.
- Balanced meals on a budget
- A tool to define geographic disparities in hunger throughout the state by using the NM Food Environment mapping tool.
- Exploring a food hub in rural and frontier communities for financial feasibility for farmers and provide our communities with fresh, local food and increased economic opportunities.

Other noteworthy activities that happened at the hunger summit:

- Hunger Walk – Morning of September 24th, 2015
- Silent Auction - Sold approximately **\$2700.00** which will go to help seniors. Many Senior Centers donated items seniors made, such as quilts, paintings, pottery, jewelry, etc.....
- Girl Scouts collected **2,351 cans of food** and at their weekend camp collected another **700 pounds of food**. One more troop from Bosque Farms had a food drive on 10/18/15 to benefit this initiative. This was a competition statewide with the girl scouts. The small little rural

community of El Rito won the competition collecting **1000 can of food.**

- 500 backpacks - Collected by North Star Elementary Girl Scouts. These backpacks will go to students that receive food from the Store House. The Storehouse is the largest food pantry in the state, so the children they serve come from all parts of the city and beyond. Additionally, because the children who are receiving backpacks are Storehouse clients, The Storehouse is able to supplement the food in the backpacks with their own supply to include “kid-friendly” options like peanut butter and other nutritious snacks that weren’t necessarily donated as part of this summit, so the kids who receive backpacks will be taking home more food that is most beneficial to them.
- The 2 credit unions that partnered with us to do a food drive in their branches were First Financial Credit Union and U.S. Eagle Federal Credit Union.
- Total pounds of food collected including the truck we had parked in front of the Hotel was **4000 pounds of food.**

Knowing now with the new statistics from the Hunger in America Report 2014, compiled by Roadrunner Food Bank and Feeding America, 70,000 people seek food assistance each week. 30% are children under the age of 18, 8% are under age 5. 21% are senior citizens, and 53% of hungry families are

among the working poor. So as you can see there is a lot of work to still be done to address hunger in our state.

The Hunger Summit created a lot of talk, enthusiasm and interest in how we all can work together in combatting this issue of hunger in our state. Many gave some ideas of what we could work on this year and many suggestions on next year's Hunger Summit.

Resources on our webpage:

www.endnmhunger.com