DENVER FOOD RESCUE

Increasing health equity within Denver neighborhoods.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
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Dear Community,

When I reflect on 2019, specific words come to mind like Transition(evolution), Resilience, and Thrive. DFR transitioned its leadership from the founder to an Executive Director, who comes from lived experience with passion to motivate and inspire. To break down challenges and barriers...Dear Community, When I reflect on 2019, specific words come to mind—Evolution, Resilience, and Growth. Evolution. DFR transitioned its leadership from the founder to an Executive Director – a Woman of Color who has lived experience with social and health inequities, bringing to the table a fierce passion to motivate and inspire for positive social change. Building relationships through authentic connection with the motivation to not only feed stomachs but to feed souls. Resilience. Barriers and challenges that arose from the transition to a new leader didn’t stand a chance—our resilience prevailed. DFR deliberately established and strengthened relationships with and between individuals, other non-profits, and various Denver communities to cultivate trust, collaboration, and growth. Growth. With a united front working to derail unjust systems and move towards equity, the reach of DFR thrived. We enhanced the scope and breadth of our No Cost Grocery Programs and curated strategic goals to further reach the children/youth of our communities as well as public policy advocacy. Let this be an invitation to celebrate the evolution, resilience, and growth of DFR and our communities through the highlights depicted in the 2019 DFR Annual Report.

CHRISTINE ALFORD
Executive Director
Denver Food Rescue is a resident-led, volunteer-driven, non-profit organization; whose mission is to produce health equity with Denver neighborhoods. We rescue, what would be otherwise wasted, highly perishable fresh food, and redistribute it to already established partnered orgs; such as after-school programs, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, Denver Public schools, residential facilities and Denver Health.

Who is Denver Food Rescue?

**Mission**

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**Values**

- **Healthy Equity**
  - The current system creates health gaps, particularly impacting low-income people and people of color. Denver Food Rescue believes that health is a right that should be enjoyed by everyone.

- **Integration of Feedback**
  - DFR recognizes that true lasting solutions will only be formed through authentic engagement with the communities lacking health equity. We are also informed by evidence-based, scientific research and internal evaluation practices.

- **Food Security**
  - Every individual deserves to have control of their food situation. Whether that is the right amount or type that best serves them.

**No Cost Grocery Program (NCGP)**

The DFR No Cost Grocery Program (NCGP) is a resident-led model to decrease stigma of traditional food pantries. Community participation empowers each neighborhood to create a program that is appropriate for their culture & community.
Our Programs:
Neighborhoods and NCGP Partners
Family Star Montessori provides vital high quality early childhood education for youth prior to entering primary school. Family star also provides comprehensive family support services to families of all socioeconomic backgrounds, such as their NCGP partnership.

"It supplements our meals, the kids enjoy getting food." - NCGP Participant

**Program Profile**

**Annual Household Income**

- 60%: $0-24k
- 40%: $24-40k
- 20%: $40-60k
- 0%: $60k+

Do households consume more fruits and vegetables?

- 58.33%: YES
- 33.33%: NO
- 8.33%: MAYBE
New Programs: Family Star NW

100% of Family Star North West households report they use "all" or "a lot" of the fruit and veggies received.

"Es bueno saludable fresco...it is good, healthy and fresh.”
- NCGP Participant

Program Profile

Annual Household Income

- 539 individuals served
- 359 children served

Do households consume more fruits and vegetables?
- 84% YES
- 12% NO
- 4% MAYBE
Red Shield Center, located in Northeast Denver within the Whittier community, has been a staple meeting place for youth and adults since 1964. This historic gathering place offers after-school programming, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, boxing, addiction recovery and emergency response resources. Denver Food Rescue partnered with the Red Shield community center in August of 2019 to facilitate a No Cost Grocery Program.

"I can get vegetables I cannot afford in the store" - NCGP participant

Program Profile

Annual Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0-24k</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$24-40k</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40-60k</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60k+</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do households consume more fruits and vegetables?

- Yes: 79%
- No: 5%
- Maybe: 16%

"Thank God for this program. My family can eat more veggies" - NCGP participant
Our Impact

In 2019, Denver Food Rescue partnered with 19 Community organizations to create No Cost Grocery Programs in 14 different neighborhoods to increase access to fresh food.

Through DFR’s programming, 56,492 individuals were supplied with 665,028 pounds of food.

This saved Denver residence over $2.3 million in grocery savings!
The majority of the food rescued is fresh fruits and vegetables. Research shows that those with less access to healthy fruits and vegetables are at higher risk to suffer from diet related illnesses.

The food diverted from the landfill has not only saved millions of dollars, but also millions of gallons of water and thousands of kilograms of carbon dioxide.
DFR relies on a diverse group of corporate and individual contributors to promote our mission. With their support, our work to achieve food and health equity in Denver neighborhoods is possible.
The amount of miles biked by volunteers in 2019 was 1,175 miles. That is equivalent to biking from Denver, CO to San Diego, CA!

In total 4,151 hours of food rescue occurred. Roughly 40 folks helped weekly. Volunteers donating their time and dedication is valued at approximately $105,560!

A car emits 411 g/mi of CO2. By using bikes, DFR volunteers saved 482,295g of CO2.

We appreciate our volunteers and their extremely valuable impact!
GET INVOLVED

2020 GOALS:

4 NEW SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

RESCUE # OF POUNDS INTO $

CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY BASED FOOD SYSTEMS

LC - THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE IS A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO RAISING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR DENVER FOOD RESCUE. By hosting small fundraisers, partnering with DFR’S FUNDRAISING EVENTS, AND CREATIVELY ENGAGING WITH NEW SUPPORTERS FOR DFR, THIS TEAM HELPS INCREASE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION. IF YOU’D LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE OR HOW TO GET INVOLVED, EMAIL TERRI HOUSE AT TERRI@DENVERFOODRESCUE.ORG