

February Newsletter

2025



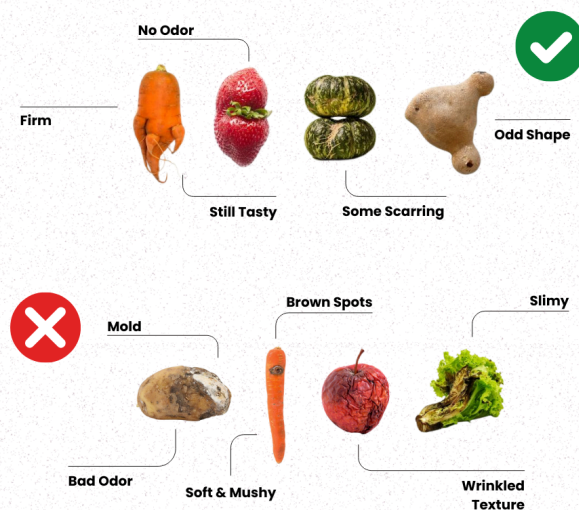
CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Don't Fear "Ugly" Produce

Fruits & veggies can sometimes look strange—know when to keep or toss your produce!

When you look at fruits and vegetables, rotting produce and natural produce look different. Rotting produce often has dark spots, a bad smell, and feels squishy or slimy. It might have mold growing on it, too. This produce is not safe to eat. On the other hand, produce with natural imperfections might look a bit misshapen, have small scars, or uneven coloring, but it usually still feels firm and smells fresh. While these may look “ugly” they are perfectly fine and tasty!

Natural vs. Rotten Produce



Fall Appeal Success

THANK YOU to all those that donated to our Fall Appeal! Your generosity and belief in our mission continue to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. With these contributions we will be able to continue providing food to our neighbors in need and educate the community about food sustainability.

Every year, we see a rise in the demand for food assistance, making our mission to combat food insecurity even more important. Fundraisers like this enable us to gather more resources, ensuring we're ready to meet this growing need. We're incredibly grateful for the support and proud to be part of such a caring community!

Program Highlight

Alimento School Food Partnership

Our Alimento program is back in full swing! This program works with local schools to design customized food distribution programs that best suit the needs of the students and families within each school. This individualized approach offers weekend backpacks, family food boxes, snack bags, in-school, and school farm stands. The Commons currently serves 13 schools in the Cobre and Silver School districts!

Ways to get involved:

- To sign up for the program as a student, contact your school
- To sign up a school, please contact Jennifer using the email alimento@thecommonsgc.org

Seeds are Sprouting at The Commons!



Here, Jennifer is pointing out some of our newly sprouted plants. Right now we have some arugula, mustard, garlic, onion, and Tokyo Bekana cabbage growing!

Food Donations are Always Welcome!

Non-perishable and **non-expired** food items are always welcome. Please drop off any food items inside at the Front Desk during business hours.

Other ways that you can support include:

- Volunteer Your Time!
- Donate!
- Sharing our Social Media Pages!

- To volunteer for packs, contact Maggie using the email info@thecommonsgc.org or sign up on [The Volunteer Center](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Paul Slattery



This month, we are recognizing Paul Slattery in our Volunteer Spotlight! Paul is one of our shining Choose Your Own Pantry volunteers and does a fantastic job helping people shop for their monthly food distribution. He possesses charm and kindness like no other—so much so that visitors often rave about their positive interactions with him! We are incredibly grateful for dedicated volunteers like Paul. Thank you for all your hard work!

Plan Ahead:

February:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 1st
Mining District Food Pantry: 18th
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 18th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 19th
Neighborhood Dinner: 28th

March:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 1st

Southwest New Mexico Seed Library

Did you know that the SW New Mexico Seed Library gives out hundreds of packages of **free seeds** every year? There are several locations where you can "check out" seeds. See below for one near you.

Silver City Locations:

- The Commons
- Silver City Public Library

Mining District Food Pantry: 18th
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 18th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 19th
Neighborhood Dinner: 28th

April:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 5th
Mining District Food Pantry: 15th
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 15th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 16th
Neighborhood Dinner: 25th

- Single Socks
- Silver City Farmers Market

Satellite Seed Libraries are located at the Valley Mimbres Market, Bayard Library and Gila Library.



Did you know that The Commons is almost completely staffed by volunteers? Here are some ways to get involved:



Food Pantry: Several times a month groups meet to sort, pack and distribute food.

Garden: Care for the Commons garden, plant food and harvest for the hungry, help maintain the orchard.

Fundraising Events: Help put together community gatherings to raise money for the Commons

[Click here](#) to sign up for the weekly email update to stay informed about all of our volunteer opportunities

Monthly Free Friday Neighborhood Dinners



The Commons has been hosting a monthly neighborhood dinner, free to community members. The turnout has been great these last couple of months and we are looking forward to hosting more.

The next neighborhood dinner will be held on Friday, February 28th. Please join us from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a wonderful home cooked meal!

If you would like to volunteer to cook or serve, let us know, we can always use another pair of hands.

Donate to the Commons and support food security in your community

- Send a check to the Commons at PO Box 416 Silver City, NM 88062



Visit our Website

- click the button below to go to our website and then click the [green DONATE button](#).

REMEMBER:

- **Food Pantries in Silver City are the first Saturday of the month.**
- **Choose Your Own (CYO) Pantry is open every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in Silver City**
- **The Mining District (Fort Bayard) distribution and the Gila/Cliff distribution are on the third Tuesday of each month.**

For more information, call the Commons at 575-388-2988 or check the website at www.thecommonsgrantcounty.org

The Commons Center for Food Security and Sustainability
www.thecommonsgrantcounty.org



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