

Fall Newsletter

2025

the
commons

CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Gala in the Garden: Gather & Grow Success!

Our fourth annual gala fundraiser was an unforgettable evening!

We're are beyond grateful to everyone who came out to support this year's Gala in the Garden: Gather & Grow! Your energy and generosity turned the night into a true celebration of community. Thank you for supporting our mission to cultivate food security, self-sufficiency, sustainability in Grant County.

This year's event was presented in loving memory of two special people, Alex Olsen and Martyn Pearson, who touched the lives of many here in Silver City. They were heavily involved in our community, whether it was through their work at Gila Hike and Bike, coaching swim teams, or teaching culinary skills to Aldo students at The Commons. Their legacy and undeniable impact continue to be honored by those that knew them.

Thank you to all the INCREDIBLE people and groups that helped make this event possible:

- Sponsors at every level
- Volunteers
- Emcee: Stephen Lindsey
- Photographer: Nayeli Mancilla
- In-Kind Contributors
- Silent Auction Donors
- Community Supporters
- Gala Committee
- Chef Paul Edwards and his wonderful team
- The Gila Lobsters and Smooth Silver Jazz Band

We truly could not have done this without your support!





Volunteer Appreciation

Heather Provencio, Kathleen Wigley, and Teppei Ando



We are recognizing **Heather Provencio, Kathleen, Teppei Ando** in this volunteer highlight! Every week they help stock the shelves of the Choose Your Own Pantry so its ready to go for when community members arrive to shop for their food distribution. They were also a great help with this year's Gala, setting up the silent auction and serving food to guests during the night of the event. Heather, Kathleen, and Teppei are an integral part of the operations of the CYO and we are incredibly grateful for all their help. Thank you all so much!

Program Highlight

A Heartfelt Thanks

By: Iris Nolasco, Executive Director

This year, I've been deeply moved by the strength, generosity, and perseverance of our community here in Grant County. At a time when so many looked at the horizon and saw uncertainty - federal food assistance programs under threat, shifting eligibility rules, and safety nets that feel increasingly fragile - you all stepped forward without hesitation.

In this environment of uncertainty, you - our volunteers, donors, and partners - did not ask "Will someone else show up?" You showed up. You laid out your time, your resources, your care. You helped make sure that at the tables of our community there was food, and people were met with kindness and community because you cared. For that, I am profoundly thankful.

As we move into the final stretch of 2025, I invite you to help us close the year strong. Together, let's ensure that our community in Grant County doesn't just weather the storms—but thrives despite them. Whether you volunteer, make a contribution, bring a friend to our next gathering, or simply spread the word, you help build resilience. You help anchor hope.

Thank you for your compassion, your commitment, and the way you remind all of us what community truly means. Let's finish this year together—stronger, kinder, and more connected.

With warm regards,



We're excited to have Josie Ross of Kneeling Nun Mercantile teach Master Food Preservation Workshops once a month at The Commons! These classes will demonstrate safe canning techniques and how to reuse food scraps to reduce kitchen waste. Canning food is a valuable skill that supports self-sufficiency, reduces food waste, and helps build a well-stocked pantry for year-round food security.

Join us for our next class, Apple Orchard in a Jar: Boiling Water Canning 101 on Monday, November 10th from 3-6pm. Learn how to make apple pie filling and how to safely can it for later use. Plus, participants will be able to take their own jar of filling home the next day! Be on the lookout for future classes!

Sign up for the class by emailing info@thecommonsgc.org or calling our office at (575)-388-2988.

Iris

Executive Director, The Commons

Reminder: Update About Silver City Pantry

As a reminder, we no longer have a drive-up pantry on the first Saturday or the last Wednesday of the month in Silver City. Instead, the Choose Your Own (CYO) pantry has expanded its hours to be open every first Saturday of the month from 10am - 12pm. This is in addition to its regular weekly hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

If you would like to pick up a box instead of shopping in the CYO, please all ahead at 575-388-2988 or email info@thecommonsgc.org to let our office know and we will put together a pantry box for you.

The Choose Your Own Pantry is open to ALL of Grant County!

Our pantry schedule can be found on our website:
<https://thecommonsgcountcounty.org/calendar-month/>

Did You Know The Commons does Home Deliveries? We Could Use Your Help to Keep it Going!

As part of our food distribution program, The Commons provides monthly home deliveries to individuals and families who are homebound and unable to attend our mobile pantries.

Right now, we're especially in need of volunteers to assist with these deliveries in the Silver City and Mining District areas. With limited staff, we rely on community members like you to ensure no one goes without the food they need.

Your time can make a real difference! Join us in getting essential food boxes to our neighbors who need them most. Click below to sign up to help!

If you have any questions, please email Maggie at info@thecommonsgc.org.



[Help with Silver City Deliveries](#)

[Help with Mining District Deliveries](#)

Plan Ahead:

October:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 4th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 15th
Mining District Food Pantry: 21st
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 21st
Community Dinner: 31st

November:

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
Community Dinner: 21st
CLOSED on Thanksgiving: 27th

December:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 6th
Mining District Food Pantry: 16th
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 16th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 17th
Community Dinner: 19th
CLOSED: Dec 21st - Jan 4th

Southwest New Mexico Seed Library



Did you know that the SW New Mexico Seed Library gives out over 20,000 packages of **free seeds** every year? And 80% are locally donated! There are several Seed Library Locations where you can "check out" seeds:

- The Commons
- Silver City Public Library
- Single Socks Thrift Store
- Silver City Farmers
- Valley Mimbres' Market
- Bayard 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 in groups meet to sort, pack and distribute food.

Help out at one of our pantry locations in Grant County: Silver City, Bayard/ Santa Clara, Gila/Cliff, or Mimbres!

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

Kitchen: Help prep, serve, and clean up at our monthly Community Dinner.

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

[Click here](#) to view all our volunteer opportunities on The Volunteer Center website

- Hurley Library
- Gila Library
- Lordsburg Library
- Santa Clara Farmers' Market
- Bear Creek Herbs

You can join us packaging and cleaning seeds on Tuesdays.

Contact swnmseeds@gmail.com for more information.

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
- OR click the button below to go to our website and then click the **DONATE button.**

Visit our Website



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 from 11:00 AM — 3:00 PM and every first Saturday

of the month from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- The Mining District (Fort Bayard) distribution and the Gila/Cliff distribution are on the third Tuesday of each month.
- The Mimbres distribution is on the third Wednesday 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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