

# November & December Newsletter

2025



CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

## Happy Holidays!

### Community Response to SNAP Cuts in November

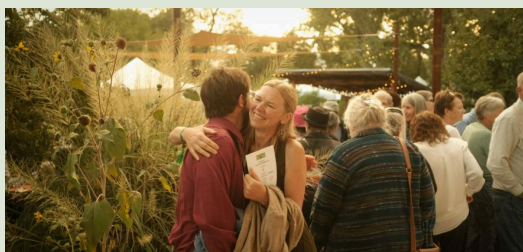
When the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits were cut during the government shutdown, we were uncertain about what to expect and how we, like thousands of other local pantries across the nation, were going to respond to the significant increase in demand.

**Fortunately, we live in an amazing community that steps up and takes care of each other!**

What unfolded in the days after the cut was unbelievable. Not only did we receive incredibly generous food donations and monetary support, but we saw the highest number of new volunteers sign up to help at The Commons in years. This outpouring of support clearly shows that in unpredictable times, the people of Grant County stand together.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission and for truly making a difference in your community!

### End of Year Matching Gift Challenge!



As we come to the end of another year, we're feeling deeply grateful for the care and compassion that make Grant County such a special place. At The Commons, we see that spirit in action every day—volunteers giving their time and community members stepping up to make sure no one goes hungry through food donations.

But this year, the need is rising. Across the United States, food pantries are

### Volunteer Appreciation Play



feeling the strain as more households turn to community support to fill the gaps. New Mexico now faces some of the highest food insecurity rates in the nation, with over 1 in 6 people (16.6%) struggling to access enough nutritious food. For children, that number climbs even higher with nearly 1 in 4 (23.3%) in risk of hunger (Roadrunner Food Bank, Map the Meal Gap).

That's why we're launching our End of Year Matching Gift Challenge! Thanks to our kickoff donors, Suzi & Janey, every dollar you donate to The Commons by December 31st will be matched, up to \$30,000.

That means your gift will have TWICE the impact:

**Here's how to make your gift today:**

**By Mail:** Send a check made payable to The Commons and mail it to The Commons, PO Box 416, Silver City, NM 88062

**Online:**  
<https://thecommons.harnessgiving.org/campaigns/19786>

**In Person:** 501 E 13th St, Silver City, NM

Thank you for standing with The Commons as we work to cultivate food security, self-sufficiency, and sustainability in Grant County. **We also want to thank the Town of Silver City for sponsoring this cause as a part of their food security initiatives.**



TOWN OF  
**SILVER CITY**

We are recognizing Play (and Frank, pictured above) for our volunteer highlight! Play started volunteering at The Commons in September to help with the Choose Your Own Pantry and since then has regularly volunteered every week. He has a clear passion for helping others and a sweet demeanor that makes our days brighter. He also helped prep and serve food for our Halloween Community Dinner in October. Thank you Play, we appreciate you!

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## Welcoming Our New Interim Director!

Ben Rasmussen



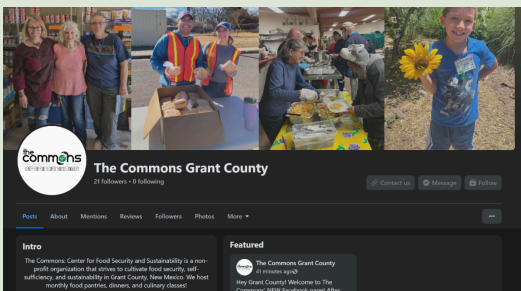
We are excited to share that Benjamin "Ben" Rasmussen has taken on the role of Interim Executive Director at The Commons, effective December 1st. Ben brings over a decade of leadership in regional food systems across southwest New Mexico and has long collaborated with The Commons on food distribution, community education, and strengthening our local food system.

In Ben's words:

"I'm excited to step into the interim director role because I care deeply about this organization and understand its importance to Grant County. I look forward to deepening community relationships, advancing ongoing initiatives, and positioning The Commons for a strong next chapter."

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## We Have a New Facebook Page!



Due to ongoing access issues we decided to create a new Facebook Page! Be sure to give a follow to stay up to date with all of our announcements, activities, and more!

[Add Our New Facebook](#)

## Upcoming Cooking Class: Jam Packed Fun with Jams and Jellies!

Join us for our next class, Jam Packed Fun with Jams and Jellies taught by Josie Ross from Kneeling Nun Mercantile on Monday, December 15th from 3-6pm.

Learn how to make holiday jams and how to safely can it for later use. Spots are filling up, so make sure you RSVP soon!

**Sign up for the class by emailing [info@thecommonsgc.org](mailto:info@thecommonsgc.org) or calling our office at (575)-388-2988. Please provide your name and contact information. Thanks!**

## 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](mailto:info@thecommonsgc.org).



[Help with Silver City Deliveries](#)

[Help with Mining District Deliveries](#)

## Plan Ahead:

### December:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs

Silver City Food Pantry: 6th

Mining District Food Pantry: 16th

## Southwest New Mexico Seed Library

Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 16th  
Mimbres Food Pantry: 17th  
Community Dinner: 19th

**CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY BREAK:  
Dec 21st - Jan 4th**

**January:**

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs  
Silver City Food Pantry: 10th  
Mining District Food Pantry: 20th  
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 20th  
Mimbres Food Pantry: 21st  
Community Dinner: 30th

**February:**

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs  
Silver City Food Pantry: 7th  
Mining District Food Pantry: 17th  
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 17th  
Mimbres Food Pantry: 18st  
Community Dinner: 27th

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## 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.



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
- 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](mailto:swnmseeds@gmail.com) for more information.

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## 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.**

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Visit our Website

**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



**REMEMBER:**

- 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 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- The Mimbres distribution is on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For more information, call the Commons at 575-388-2988 or check the website at [www.thecommonsgrantcounty.org](http://www.thecommonsgrantcounty.org)

The Commons Center for Food Security and Sustainability  
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The Commons Center for Food Security and Sustainability | 501 East 13th St PO Box 416 | Silver City, NM 88062 US

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