

February Newsletter

2026



CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



LDS Volunteer Day: Garden Transformation

In January, over 45 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints spent the day volunteering at The Commons as a part of their MLK Jr. Volunteer Day. They accomplished a lot of work including planting a variety of seeds, clearing fallen trees, trimming ornamental grasses, raking and hauling over 20 wheelbarrows of leaves, cleaning out garden beds, fixing and painting the Farm Stand and benches, assembling two new garden beds, reinforcing siding, and treating exposed wood with linseed oil. Our gardens are now one big step closer to being spring-ready!

We're incredibly grateful for their time, skills, hard work, and generosity. Thank you!

You can check out more pictures from this day, including before-and-after shots, on social media by visiting our Facebook or Instagram.



**Interim Executive
Director, Ben Rasmussen
Featured in Edible New
Mexico Article**

**Volunteer Appreciation
Dave Bunnell**



On Hunger's Cutting Edge

In January, our Interim Executive Director, Ben Rasmussen was featured in an article from Edible New Mexico titled On Hunger's Cutting Edge, which touched on the complexities of food security and food pantry operations in New Mexico. Ben discusses the work of the Frontier Food Hub, a close partner of The Commons', who provides our pantry with direct access to produce from local farmers. This fresh produce is included in our food distribution programs, such as the Choose Your Own Pantry in Silver City.

➔ [Read the full article here.](#)

Program Highlight Gardens



In preparation for spring, our Garden Manager, Jennifer, has been hard at work starting a new round of seedlings, growing trays of tomatoes, peppers, and cauliflower.

The tomatoes and cauliflower are off to a strong start, already producing multiple sprouts. The peppers, on the other hand, are taking their time and are still a bit shy.

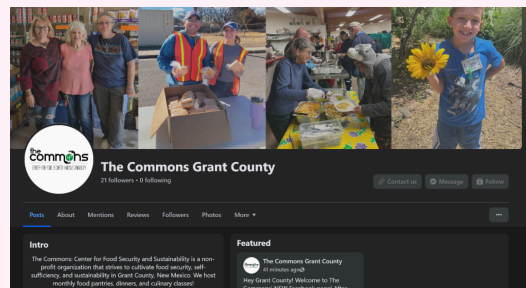


For this newsletter, we're excited to honor Dave Bunnell as our Volunteer Spotlight!

Dave is a very dedicated garden volunteer, helping us maintain and care for our community gardens. He's helped out with orchard mapping, tree labeling, and for the past two years, he's been a big help with weed whacking and clearing the gardens so they're ready and looking their best before our annual gala.

Last week, our staff also had the pleasure of meeting his newest companion, Suki (pictured above), who completely stole our hearts! Thanks for your generosity, Dave!

Follow our 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 activities, announcements, and more!

Once these seedlings are sturdy enough, they'll be transplanted into the gardens, where they can continue to grow and thrive.

Next time you're at The Commons, be sure to stop by and take a look at the sprouts. It's exciting to see the first signs of spring taking root!

[Add Our New Facebook!](#)

Free Community Dinner

All are welcome to join us **Friday, March 27th** from **5-7pm** for another free community dinner!

Location: The Commons
501 E 13th St, Silver City, NM

Plan Ahead:

March:

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

April:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 4th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 15th
Volunteer Appreciation Day: 20th
Mining District Food Pantry: 21st
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 21st
Community Dinner: 24th

May:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs
Silver City Food Pantry: 2nd
Mining District Food Pantry: 19th
Cliff Gila Food Pantry: 19th
Mimbres Food Pantry: 20th
Community Dinner: 29th

Did you know that The Commons is Almost Completely Staffed by Volunteers?

Southwest New Mexico Seed Library

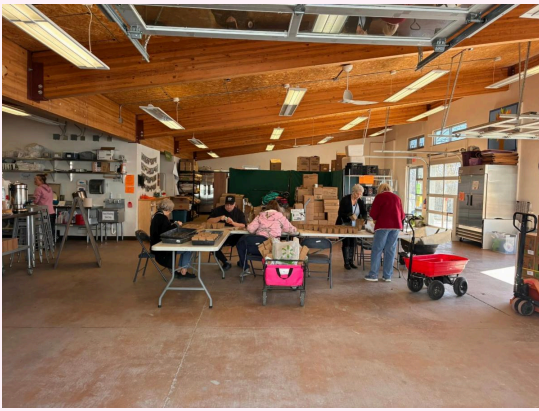


Did you know that the SW New Mexico Seed Library gives out over 20,000 packages of **free seeds** every year? And 80% are locally donated! There are several Seed Library Locations where you can "check out" seeds:

- The Commons
- Silver City Public Library
- Single Socks Thrift Store
- Silver City Farmers
- Valley Mimbres' Market
- Bayard Library
- 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.



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

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



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!