

June Newsletter

2026



2026 Youth Conservation Corps Program



In June, we kicked off our annual Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at The Commons! This year, we welcomed eight crew members from across Grant County with the goal of building workplace readiness while providing hands-on training in a variety of skills. So far, the crew has learned about basic gardening, outdoor maintenance and beautification, landscape architecture, CPR and First Aid, tool and warehouse safety, masonry, public speaking, and food systems.

One of the crew's major projects this summer has been collaborating with the Town of Silver City to beautify the Monje-Martinez Park parklet next to The Commons. Working alongside YCC Supervisor Toxtli, the crew has constructed stone pillars and will soon install fencing.

A special thank you to our YCC Supervisors, Jennifer and Toxtli, and to our Executive Director, Ben, for their guidance throughout the program. We're also grateful to the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps, through the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), for serving as our fiscal sponsor and for providing the opportunity to host this program for local youth. Learn more about YCC by visiting their [website](#).



Check out more of what the crew has been doing on our social media!



**Join Us for Our 5th
Annual Gala in the
Garden in September!**

Volunteer Spotlight
Donna Flores



The Commons 5th Annual Gala in the Garden is approaching! Join us **Saturday, September 26th from 5-9pm** for a magical night Under the Harvest Moon.

Enjoy a stroll through the gardens with friends, delicious food, live music, a silent auction, and learn more about what The Commons has done and is planning for the upcoming year. We're extremely honored to have our gala presented In Loving Memory of Alex Olsen & Martyn Pearson again this year.

Our theme, Under the Harvest Moon, represents the symbol of abundance, gratitude, and community. Traditionally associated with the gathering of the harvest, this special evening reflects The Commons' mission to cultivate food security, self-sufficiency, and sustainability in Grant County. As we gather in the garden, we celebrate the shared work of nourishing our community and creating a more resilient future together.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Buy Tickets
- Become a Sponsor
- Donate to the Silent Auction
- Volunteer



We'd like to honor Donna Flores for our June volunteer spotlight! Donna has been a long-time volunteer of The Commons and truly cares about helping others, especially in her community in Hurley and the Mining District. Every Tuesday, she's either dedicating her time at the Choose Your Own Pantry or she's out at the Mining District Pantry at Fort Bayard. Fun fact: We've been told by clients that they specifically come to the CYO on Tuesdays to see Donna. Now, if that doesn't show you how incredible she is, then we don't know what will! She even brings the staff food or desserts she's made, and has been a great help with lending her culinary skills during community dinners. Thank you for everything, Donna!

Seeking Silent Auction Items for Gala in the Garden

Tickets go on sale August 1st! They can be purchased online or at our office.

Visit our Website for More Information

Closure Notice: August 3rd-6th

The Commons and the Choose Your Own Pantry will be closed Monday, August 3, through Thursday, August 6 for staff planning.

Please plan ahead by visiting the Choose Your Own Pantry during the last week of July or on Saturday, August 1 from 10am-12pm. There will be no volunteer activities during the closure.

We'll reopen with our regular hours and activities on Monday, August 10. See you then!



Our 5th annual Gala in the Garden fundraiser is just a couple of months away! Please consider donating an item, service, or gift certificate to our silent auction. As you know, all money raised at this event directly funds our programs, which work to eliminate local hunger and build a sustainable food system for our community. We will recognize your generosity by displaying your name at the auction and on our Gala web page. What's more, item donations are tax-deductible.

Please stop by or [email](#) us if you have questions or an item to donate. We'll be accepting items through September 17, but sooner is better. We appreciate your support!

Plan Ahead:

July:

CYO Pantry: Weekly Tues-Wed-Thurs

***Silver City Food Pantry:
RESCHEDULED to the 11th***

Mimbres Food Pantry: 15th
Mining District Food Pantry: 21st
Cliff/Gila Food Pantry: 21st
Community Dinner: 31st

August:

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: 28th

September:

Southwest New Mexico Seed Library



Did you know that the SW New Mexico Seed Library gives out over 10,000 packages of **free seeds** every year?

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
Community Dinner: 25th

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

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.

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](#)

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

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