

# Feeding Hope

Fall 2023



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# Feeding Neighbors During the Holidays

Dear caring Friends,



## Our Mission

We combat the hunger crisis in our region by strategically procuring and distributing nutritious food through community partners ... **because no one should go hungry.**

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El Paso Children's Hospital

**Peter A. Spier**  
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As we near the end of the year, we are reminded that the season of giving is upon us. At El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFH), we embrace this time of year as an opportunity to unite our community and extend a helping hand to those in need. **With your generous support, we can continue to provide nourishing meals for our most vulnerable.**

I want to take a moment to thank those who participated in our Migrant Match fundraising opportunity earlier this year. During the migrant surge, we provided food and blankets to overcrowded shelters and provided meals for those left to fend for themselves in the streets. An anonymous donor through The Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona offered us a \$250,000 matching challenge. We raised \$307,553.03 due to the overwhelming community response.

This season of giving, we are working hard to expand our services by constructing three much-needed food processing rooms, and I'm happy to announce the relaunch of our new and improved Food FARMacy. None of this would be possible without your support. **Your kindness and generosity have touched the lives of families right here in the borderland, providing them with hope during their time of need. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continued support. You're making a real difference, and we are grateful for your help ... because no one should go hungry!**

Susan Goodell  
Chief Executive Officer



## Voting at the Food Bank

**On November 7** our neighbors can vote on Election Day here at El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank. Recognizing the importance of amplifying everyone's voice, we offer voting opportunities to those traditionally less engaged in the electoral process. We know on election day, our neighbors spending time at the food bank are opting to get food over voting, which is why we are bringing the polls to them. As a Voting Center, our food bank bridges the gap between civic duty and community well-being.

# Things to come

**We are under construction!** This is excellent news for us here at El Pasoans Fighting Hunger. As the sixth-largest food bank in America in terms of food distribution, our organization has achieved remarkable growth over the past few years. This success, however, presents us with a unique challenge — the need for more resources to match our expanding size.

To address this challenge, we started the construction of three specialized food processing rooms, known as clean rooms. These clean rooms will be equipped with refrigeration and are dedicated to preparing, repacking, and sorting food. They are giving us the capacity to serve our community efficiently.

As the construction of these rooms continues, we still need to raise \$2.5 million to complete this project and acquire the essential equipment that will make these rooms function. **We hope you, our donors, will help us finish these rooms. Each dollar you contribute brings us one step closer to transforming these food processing rooms into a reality that will positively touch the lives of people in our community.**



## Food FARMacy is Back!

**What is a Food FARMacy, you ask? It is a program where individuals diagnosed with diet-related chronic conditions are given access to healthy food and nutrition education.**

Our original Food FARMacy program opened during COVID-19 and never really became what we wanted. During that time, it operated as a client choice pantry, but now we are able to relaunch it as a true Food FARMacy as originally intended.

If you've recently shopped for groceries, you know how much things have gone up in price. This hits low-income neighbors even harder. Groceries on a small budget means buying overly processed food with empty calories and little nutritional value. This type of diet combined with chronic disease is a recipe for gaining weight, causing even more health issues and stress, creating a cycle of food-related illnesses.

Our goal for the new and improved Food FARMacy program is to empower our food-insecure participants to manage their medical conditions through food-related behavior and lifestyle changes. We collaborate closely with our network of healthcare providers to find patients who stand to benefit from our program. Once identified, our dietitian provides essential nutrition knowledge and tailored counseling sessions to help them find lasting dietary solutions to their chronic conditions.

## Introducing Jose Cabrera: Our 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jose has been an unwavering presence in our volunteer community.

Rooted in a profound belief in giving back and aiding those in need, his dedication to serving our community is truly inspiring. Jose's commitment shines through as he's among the first to arrive or the last to leave on any given day.

**For Jose, volunteering is more than just an act; it's a journey of personal growth. He believes that by contributing his time, he enhances himself and kindles the spark of service and change in others. His story is a beacon of dedication, and we're proud to share it with our community.**

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to volunteers like Jose, who embody the spirit of commitment. We hope his example ignites a similar fire within individuals like you, motivating you to stand alongside us. Volunteering is an avenue to acquire fresh skills, forge connections, and derive fulfillment from the positive changes you create. It forms the cornerstone of resilient communities, enabling us to support each other through adversity and forge bonds of purpose.

As we face a sustained need for assistance, the need for remarkable individuals like Jose becomes more pronounced. We salute you, Jose Cabrera — you are the driving force behind our battle against hunger.



## Welcoming Our Newest Board Members

### Cindy Ann Stout, DNP, RN, NEA, BC President and Chief Executive Officer of El Paso Children's Hospital



An El Paso native, Dr. Stout received her undergraduate degree in Nursing from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, a Master of Science in Nursing with an administrative focus from UTEP, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice with an executive focus from Duke University. Dr. Stout joined El Paso Children's Hospital on September 28, 2017, and immediately focused on providing the best possible pediatric care, research, and education in the Borderplex region. Dr. Stout has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare and has been responsible for many innovations in the El Paso market. In her very little free time, Dr. Stout loves attending community events, musical shows, shopping with her daughters, and vacationing with her family. But most importantly, her work cell phone is always close by: "The job never sleeps."



### Shea Marcus Herman Marcus Family Foundation

Shea was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, and went to college at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she double majored in Film Studies and Fine Arts. She spent nine years in Los Angeles decorating movie sets. She moved back to El Paso in 2015 and managed the Melinda and Meyer Marcus Family Foundation. She also works for MIMCO, where she handles charitable contributions, and she and her husband own the El Paso Rhinos. Her most important job is being a mom to her four-year-old son.

### Vincent Castro - VinRich Enterprises, LLC - West El Paso Castro, Inc. dba McDonald's

Vincent Castro is currently an Owner/Operator for VinRich Enterprises and West El Paso Castro Inc. dba McDonald's. He completed the McDonald's Next Generation Program and officially became an owner in December 2016. He is the Vice President of the Albuquerque/El Paso Co-op, the Lead of the Customer Experience Team, and the OPNAD Representative, representing all the owners in the Co-op for McDonald's National Marketing. Vincent is also the NFLA Place Team Representative for McDonald's Hispanic Owner/Operator Association (MHOA).



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