

# Spring/Summer 2020

## As Covid-19 Changes The World Around Us, Donors And Volunteers Continue Their Strong Support Of Our Pantry

## Bienvenidos Outreach, Inc.

Volume 9, Issue 1

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers, Bienvenidos Outreach remains open during this challenging time to be of assistance to our clients both old and new.

To better facilitate access to our services, we have expanded our hours of operation and are opening up at 8:00am for people to pick up food. This one change helps us maintain social distancing etiquette and shortens the wait time for customers picking up their food. Because of the many positive comments made by our clients, we have decided that we will keep these hours as our regular hours of operation.

Of course, opening up 3-1/2 hours earlier than normal couldn't happen without the dedication of our volunteers. Instead of our regular 10 or 12 volunteers helping out each day, we now have 4 to 6 volunteers running the daily operations. Starting at 6:30am (sometimes earlier), volunteers are picking up food donations, cleaning and sanitizing equipment, prepping food boxes and sack lunches, and helping the office staff to prepare for the day. Once the clients start arriving, volunteers meet them at their cars, receive their paperwork and proceed to help us get everyone checked-in and given their food. Next for the volunteers is more

cleaning, more food boxes to be made and helping the next group of clients.

Without the dedication of our volunteers, it would be impossible to continue to operate in a safe and efficient manner. Volunteers who cannot be with us during this time have offered to help from home and those who can come in are often working 3 or more days a week at the pantry to keep our mission going.

And, of course the generosity of our donors not only in monetary, but in in-kind donations of food and supplies, have helped us to keep our doors open during these difficult times.

The donation of hand-made masks from donors and volunteers have kept all of us at the pantry safe and healthy and we are deeply honored that you took the time to do make them for us.

And finally, the cards and calls we have received from our donors and to simply check up and see how we are doing, or if we need anything, has been deeply appreciated by each and everyone of us here at Bienvenidos Outreach. We sincerely thank you.



**Photo above:** (l-r: Julie Buckingham, Jenny Mier, Bruce Rosburg, Nathan Toy and Beezy Bing—getting ready to distribute boxes and lunches to our clients. Their day started with picking up food donations, checking, sorting & storing food, food box preparation and delivery of the food to the clients. We thank and salute all our volunteers for their spirit of giving and caring for their community.

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**New Hours of Operation:**  
**Monday—8:00am-1:15pm**  
**Tues-Thu-8:00am-2:15pm**

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### Clothing & Household Donations:

**As of June 1, 2020, please call us at 505-986-0593 to make an appointment to bring in clothing & household good donations. Our staffing is limited and we want to make sure we have enough staff on hand to process your donations.**

**Thank you.**

### *In Memory of:*

- **Richard Ferrell**
- **Lucy Romero**

*(Donations were given to Bienvenidos Outreach to honor these fine people)*



### **FY2019-2020 Totals: (as of 3/31/20)**

New applications	342
Boxes given out	8,989
Lunches handed out	11,199
Visits to clothing room	4,880
Volunteer hours donated	9,316
Number of seniors served	578
Number of children served	1,103

### Corporate Donors—An Important Part of Our Operations



### Fund A division of the PNM Resources Foundation

It means a lot to us when we receive grants from foundations who believe in the work we are doing and decide to support us. It is absolutely humbling when a foundation awards you a grant and then a few months later awards you another to further enhance your work. We salute and gratefully thank The PNM Fund not only for what they have done for us but for their solid commitment to make our community a better place for all and for their support of non-profits throughout the years. Money from The PNM Reduce Your Use Grant was used to purchase much-needed energy-efficient refrigeration.

The second grant, The 2020 Vison Grant Reducing Homelessness, will provide weekend food packages for the homeless in our area. Expanding our services for the homeless to the weekend has been a dream of ours and only because of this grant are we able to start this new program.

It can't be said enough: Thank you PNM for helping our community!

**THANK YOUR FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

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**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**

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The Eldorado Farmers' Market, which is owned & operated by Bienvenidos Outreach, opened on May 22, 2020. At this time, due to restrictions on public gatherings, we are only allowed to sell food and essential products (soaps, essential oils, etc). Opening day brought us a wonderful selection of salad greens, peas, kale, pesto, jerky, beef products, baked goods, eggs (chicken, duck, turkey & goose!), radishes, herbs, flower sand plantsand of course our famous hot dog stand sold hot dogs and sausages with all the fixings!



Photo above: Carlos Orozco from Evelyn's Farm.

The Market is located at La Tienda at Eldorado (7 Caliente Road) and boasts plenty of parking. This year, we ask both vendors and customers to comply with the rules of the market. Of course, as the rules change, so will we, so please be patient and understanding with us! Once it is safe again, we will bring back the very popular weekly raffle.

The market is a fundraiser for Bienvenidos Outreach through collection of stall fees, sales of hot dogs and sausages, and selected arts and crafts donated by generous locals. Funds received from the market go towards buying healthy food for our clients, with a heavy emphasis on nutritious breakfast food and snacks for children.

**The market also serves as a drop off spot for donations of food, clothing, personal care items and of course, monetary donations are gladly accepted, too.**

We'd love to have you join us at the market and please, make sure and stop by the Bienvenidos Outreach table to find out more about our various programs.

