

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - del

Introduced by:
Commissioner Anna Hansen and Commissioner Hank Hughes

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL NEIGHBOR TO
NEIGHBOR FUND DRIVE IN COORDINATION WITH THE FOOD DEPOT**

WHEREAS, New Mexico consistently ranks as one of the worst states for food insecurity with 19,200 food-insecure people in Santa Fe County (the County) alone, more than 5,000 of which are children; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the Board) recognizes the importance of food security in the County; and

WHEREAS, increasing the consumption of healthy food is a priority in the *Santa Fe County Health Action Plan*, and the County's Community Services Department operates *Santa Fe County CONNECT*, an accountable health community, with the vision that all County residents, regardless of income, have access to high-quality health care and are linked to resources they need for health and well-being, including nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the County has worked with its partners since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic to expand food distribution through the COVID-19 Food Relief Program; and

WHEREAS, public and private partnerships can assist in meeting the food needs of those seeking food assistance in the County and it is the mission of The Food Depot to end hunger in northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, The Food Depot fulfills this goal by serving as the food bank for nine northern New Mexico counties, providing food to more than 145 nonprofit agencies including emergency food pantries, meal programs, shelters for the homeless and battered persons, youth programs, and senior centers; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Association Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive was created 11 years ago with the purpose of bringing together neighborhoods across Santa Fe to stand together in unison to collect food to benefit The Food Depot; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, neighborhoods in the Santa Fe area have participated in donating food to The Food Depot through an area-wide Neighborhood Association Neighbor to Neighbor

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Food Drive, organized every September during national Hunger Action Month. This food drive has grown exponentially and is now the largest food drive benefiting The Food Depot; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution Nos. 2021-065, 2020-62, 2019-104, 2018-47, and 2017-84 in support of the Neighbor to Neighbor Food/Fund Drives, in coordination with the City of Santa Fe, and authorized the use of County facilities for the collection of non-perishable food donations; and

WHEREAS, the County would, under normal circumstances, establish sites at County facilities where members of the public can drop off non-perishable food donations for pick up by The Food Depot as part of the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive and expend County resources to inform communities and neighborhoods throughout the County of the event; and

WHEREAS, since 2020, to ensure the safety and health of our constituents and staff and comply with the Governor's public health order and mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Neighbor to Neighbor coordinators changed this event to be the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive. Instead of collecting food donations, the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive collected monetary donations from the public to benefit The Food Depot; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, collecting monetary donations only, this grassroots effort grew to include participation from 128 neighborhoods and businesses and raised over \$170,979, equal to 854,895 pounds of food or 712,412 meals; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the limitations, the 2021 Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive exceeded its goal of \$175,000 and raised over \$200,000 equaling 1 Million pounds of food or 805,716 meals for those in need from the donations of 140 Santa Fe neighborhoods and businesses; and

WHEREAS, based on that success and with the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Neighbor to Neighbor coordinators have decided to totally suspend food donations and only collect monetary donations for The Food Depot; and

WHEREAS, The Food Depot has stated that with every donated dollar, it can buy five pounds of food or 4 meals to help feed those who are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, the Board is more committed than ever to support this important event and ensure that the many constituents who benefit from this event continue to do so especially during this time of great need; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that the County use its resources to promote the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive to ensure that County employees, neighborhoods, and communities are aware of and know how to support the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive; and

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WHEREAS, in the past, the Neighbor to Neighbor coordinators have tracked donations for each neighborhood, community, business, and County and City employee, and afforded trophies and recognition to the top neighborhood and community contributors. This elicited a friendly and healthy competition among neighborhoods, communities, businesses, and County and City staff to see who would be the top contributor; and

WHEREAS, all monetary donations should be accompanied by an indication of whether the donation is from a specific community, neighborhood or from a County or City employee, and should be sent before by the deadline of September 17, 2022, to ensure inclusion in the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board supports and encourages monetary donations (not food collection) for the eleventh annual Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive.
2. The Board authorizes the County Manager and staff to:
 - a. Encourage participation in the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive as one means of addressing food insecurity in our community;
 - b. Inform communities and neighborhoods throughout the County that they can make contributions to the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive before the deadline of September 17, 2022, by credit card donation at the Neighbor to Neighbor website <https://www.thefooddepot.org/n2n>, or by mailing a check to: The Food Depot, N2N Fund Drive, 122-A Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507; and
 - c. Work cooperatively with the City of Santa Fe to alleviate food insecurity and hunger in the County.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 9TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: Anna T. Hamilton
Anna T. Hamilton, Chair

ATTESTATION:

Katharine E. Clark
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 08/09/2022



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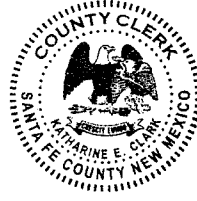
Approved as to form:

Cristella Coley for
Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE) BCC RESOLUTIONS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 10TH Day Of August, 2022 at 09:42:41 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1994776
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy Destiny Romero County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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