BOULDER FOOD RESCUE
2018 ANNUAL REPORT
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“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is tied up with mine, then let us work together.”
-Lilla Watson

I believe that we all have a stake in this work. That nobody is free until we are all free. That the systemic barriers that are creating hunger and poverty can be toppled over, and that together, we can all stand in solidarity with one another to dismantle the systems that keep people experiencing poverty in a consistent state where they have no access to choice.

Food is overproduced in the US and yet, for so many, it is not abundant. The overflowing grocery store shelves we find in America reflect the immense amount of resources that we put into over-producing food. However, that is only a representation of one part of the food system and does not paint the full picture. We do not have a scarcity of food, but we do have a scarcity of access and a scarcity of choice.

One in ten people in CO does not know how they will put food on the table or are able to feed their children healthy meals. They do not know how they will both feed themselves and pay their medical bills. They sign up for SNAP benefits (food stamps) or go to food pantries, which is a huge help but is not always enough to stretch throughout the month. They face the extra work to get to these places without reliable transportation, the monotony, and burden of poverty-proving paperwork, and the shame and stigma associated with needing help.

I have a stake in changing this system because I believe that all people, regardless of who they are or how much money they make, deserve to have the choice to eat healthy and nourishing food. I have a stake in changing this system because I believe that adequate nourishment is an essential step towards adequate compensation, education, and fulfilling livelihood. I have a stake in changing this system because people who I love and care about, including myself, want to nourish themselves and their families and they face unequal burden due to their life circumstances: where they grew up, the color of their skin, their gender or sexual orientation, their disabilities, and other identifiers that have nothing to do whether or not someone deserves to eat, and thus, deserves to live.

Boulder Food Rescue aims to create a more just and less wasteful food system. Every year, we grow deeper and deeper into our values and principles and continue to fight for the liberation of all people, one carrot at a time.

In 2018, we increased our food donation sources by launching our Fresh Food Connect program. This program enables us to pick up from home gardens and urban farms around the city, which increases the supply of fresh and local produce. This gives more people the ability to engage with their community as gardeners by donating excess food to those who may not be able to grow or buy it.
We deepened our relationships at our No Cost Grocery Programs by showing up more frequently and supporting Grocery Program Coordinators (resident-leaders who run the produce distribution in their own communities) by providing adequate materials, information, and support. We started new grocery programs at Early Childhood Education centers so that people coming to pick up their children could grab food on the way out with more convenience and less effort.

Our 150 active volunteers moved over 565,000 lbs of food that would have been wasted, by bicycle, to 38 different sites around Boulder, 26 of which are No Cost Grocery Programs aiming to reduce barriers to access. The other 12 recipient sites are essential pantries and nonprofits moving thousands of pounds of food every day that we support by increasing the supply of produce they have access to. All of this happened in Boulder alone.

Beyond these city limits, we have helped other nonprofits establish and grow food rescue organizations in their communities, providing materials, resources, consulting, peer-learning, references and a shared vision to amplify our voices and power. We have grown our Food Rescue Alliance network to 18 different cities around the US and Canada, all working to do community-based and participatory food redistribution that is focused on health equity and addressing root causes of hunger.

I'm fueled by the people I get to work with, day after day, that inspire me to keep showing up and using my voice: the individuals and foundations who continue to fund our work knowing that we cannot do it without financial support, the participants who run our grocery programs, the courier volunteers who move food around and other volunteers with niche skills who are essential to our programming, the leaders of food rescues in other cities who teach me about nonprofit management, and never least, the dedicated and boisterous BFR staff team, who keeps me laughing when things get tough by coming up with terrible affirmations in funny voices and constant reminders to bring light to our sometimes heavy work.

Reflecting over the last year gives me the strength to turn towards this new year and the challenges ahead, to continue to support our team, and to have fun while we are doing what we love to do. I am so grateful for this community and all of the support we receive to relentlessly dedicate ourselves towards working for a more just and equitable food system.

Thank you for helping our community flourish.

Hayden Dansky
MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

Boulder Food Rescue aims to create a more just and less wasteful food system.

VOLUNTEERISM
We engage volunteers according to their skills and interests at every level of the organization.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
We believe in community-based work to build relationships and exchange knowledge.

PARTICIPATION
Participants exercise power and influence as volunteers, feedback givers, and decision-makers.

COLLABORATION
We believe that collaboration, coalition building, and peer learning are essential to driving change.

HEALTH EQUITY
We envision a world in which a person’s race, gender, income, or geography does not determine their health.

MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Through our work, we reduce unnecessary food waste and distribute as much as possible by bicycle or foot.

SYSTEMS CHANGE
We address the root causes of food insecurity through participation, advocacy, and research.
1 out of 6 people in the US is hungry, meaning, they have limited access to adequate and nutritious food. Meanwhile, 40% of the food produced is thrown away.

Boulder Food Rescue's model of food redistribution delivers surplus produce from grocery stores to communities facing food insecurity. Currently, BFR's courier volunteers re-distribute the food primarily by bicycle through 12 daily food rescue shifts.

This landfill-bound, yet perfectly edible and nutritious, food is donated from 20 sites and delivered to 38 recipient organizations. The food donors are comprised of 9 major grocery stores, local fruit gleaning, home garden produce donors, and a farmer's market. An average of 1,500 pounds of food is circulated daily, reaching 17,000 individuals annually.
Boulder Food Rescue's central program is food redistribution, which consists of food pick-ups from grocery stores and restaurants.

Within this program, BFR also runs:
- No Cost Grocery Programs
- Fresh Food Connect

Beyond food distribution, BFR also creates a more just food system through the following programs:
- Food Rescue Alliance
- Community-Based Participatory Research
- Education and Outreach

**WHAT IS PARTICIPATION?**

Our central focus is creating participatory systems in which individuals have a hand and a voice in their own food access through meaningful feedback processes.

Participation, in the context of food access, refers to all of the ways that people who have experienced food insecurity can be involved in efforts to improve food access.
A No-Cost Grocery Program consists of BFR couriers donating food directly to places where participants are already gathered. Food is then distributed by resident-leaders in each community. There are currently 26 active No-Cost Grocery Programs at low-income housing sites, daycares, and schools. This program model reduces common barriers to accessing food, such as financial barriers, transportation, hours of operation, red tape, and paperwork.

This year, NCGP participants collaborated in the creation of a recipe book utilizing commonly received produce as a way to share creativity and knowledge within other program sites and the community at large. Recipes range from tomatillo salsa to fruit salads and are in both English and Spanish.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

- Grocery stores set aside food that would otherwise be wasted.
- Courier volunteers deliver the food to low-income communities.
- Grocery Program Coordinators receive the food and...
- redistribute it to others within their own communities.
- People eat affordable and easily accessible fresh produce.
Fresh Food Connect is a nonprofit app designed to enable home gardeners and farmers to directly donate excess produce from their own backyards.

Our team launched this program in 2018 and was able to distribute an additional 2,600 pounds of freshly grown produce. Also, an additional four No-Cost Grocery Programs were established at Early Childhood Education Centers through a partnership with Boulder County Public Health.

Best yet, an electric trike allowed for more accessibility to run this program across five zip codes!
FOOD RESCUE ALLIANCE

Food Rescue Alliance is a national network of food recovery organizations facilitated by BFR.

The peer-learning network aims to amplify voices in the national movement to end hunger through direct support to grassroots and community-based food recovery programs.

Currently, the Alliance is comprised of 18 organizations across 11 states and provinces in the US and Canada, 5 of which are in Colorado. Together, we have a more amplified voice in our desires to address the root causes of food insecurity, increase access to healthy food for low-income communities, and create participatory, collaborative programs.

To learn more visit: www.foodrescuealliance.org

“The Food Rescue Alliance has been a tremendous resource in connecting us to other organizations that have the same vision as we do in addressing food insecurity within our communities.”

– Alejandra Perez Urkoski, MSW
Community Development Coordinator, Cultivando
In September 2018, the BFR community gathered together for our sixth annual fundraiser, the Food Rescue Feast. We packed the Jewish Community Center with over 250 people and the evening was filled with delicious food, beer and wine donors, a silent auction, yard games, and community connections.

A new offering at this year's event was an interactive farm tour of Milk and Honey Farm, including a large field and greenhouse that contributed to our Fresh Food Connect program.

Amidst the celebration, we met our fundraising goals by raising over $10k!
**FINANCIALS**

**REVENUE**

- Individual Donors 29.25%
- Grants 51.11%
- Business 9.92%
- Other 0.27%
- Events 7.68%
- FRA Membership 1.76%

**EXPENSES**

- Program 67.47%
- Fundraising 22.95%
- Administration 9.59%

*With the inclusion of In-Kind food donation, program revenue increases to 96%.

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**MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS**

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>City of Boulder, Health Equity Fund</td>
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<td>Guys Who Give</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>In-Kind</td>
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<td>Boulder Brands</td>
<td>Corporate Donor</td>
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In 2019, Boulder Food Rescue will publish a Participation Framework. This is a product of 3 years worth of community-based research that highlights how people experiencing poverty want to participate in food systems. Ideally, we will be able to use this as a resource to teach all human service nonprofits how to effectively make systems changes that break down barriers to accessing food.

BFR also hopes to continue rescuing more food from home gardens, distribute to more No Cost Grocery Programs, and build more trustworthy and fulfilling relationships with our community.

Special thanks to Kate Eno and Christine Olanio for making 2018 possible!
STAFF

HAYDEN DANSKY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LINDSEY LOBERG
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH MURPHY
LOGISTICS DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH GIBB
GRANT MANAGER

DIANA ALVARADO
PARTICIPANT COORDINATOR

JANÉÉ HARRIS
FOOD DONOR COORDINATOR

BECKS BOONE
TECH LEAD

LOU CREECH
COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

RICCHI MACHADO
COURIER COORDINATOR
GET INVOLVED

Interested in becoming a part of the Boulder Food Rescue community?

You can get involved as a food rescue courier, contribute a skill, donate produce from your backyard, give financially to support our programs or spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors.

We would love for you to join us!

For more information and to stay up to date with all things BFR visit: www.boulderfoodrescue.org
SAVE THE DATE

BOULDER FOOD RESCUE’S
Recipe Book Launch

Join us in celebrating our donors and learn more about how to get involved with Boulder Food Rescue with an evening of drinks, tapas, and community.

May 17th, 2019 | 6 - 8 pm
MUSEUM OF BOULDER