Dear Friends,

Well, that was quite a year! 2021 brought us many of the same challenges that 2020 did, and we were ready for them. We grappled with the ongoing pandemic, fought an inconsistent food supply, and expanded our staff to meet the growing need in the community.

It was a year of growth and progress for We Don’t Waste. With the pandemic still impacting so many families and individuals, we were so glad to be able to continue to provide vital food access to our community, while also keeping millions of pounds of food out of the landfill to protect the environment.

And we managed to have some fun doing it!

Some quick highlights from last year:

- More than 20 million servings of food recovered and distributed
- A growing education program (including our first school food waste audits!)
- The purchase of a new food-recovery van and installation of a new freezer (our first walk-in freezer!)
- Growth of our Mobile Food Market initiative, with key partners offering additional resources at most markets

Also last year, We Don’t Waste started a strategic planning process to determine the organization’s direction for the next 3 to 5 years. We are excited about the opportunities and potential for the future. Our strong financial position is thanks to key partnerships (special shoutout to Danone North America!) and essential support from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

On behalf of the families and individuals we serve, the environment we protect, and the organizations with whom we partner, thank you for your support. With your help, we continue to be ready for the challenges and opportunities coming our way.

Best,

Arlan Preblud  
Founder & Executive Director

Michael Richards  
Board of Directors President
Without the variety and amount of reliable, quality produce, dairy, and meat, we would not be able to provide enough food to our refugee clients every week.

THANK YOU!

— Project Worthmore
Partner Agency since 2016
2021 HIGHLIGHTS

PARTNER DISTRIBUTION

Our partners are integral to our distribution model, and throughout 2021 we were able to increase our active food donors and distribute food to over 90 nonprofit recipients directly. These nonprofits specialize in serving various communities around Colorado, including veterans, seniors, single mothers, and more. All of the food distributed to these organizations is shared with their communities through various free food programs, many of which would not exist without We Don’t Waste’s consistent deliveries.

MOBILE FOOD MARKETS

Our Mobile Food Markets continue to meet the increased need for food access in communities across Denver. With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger and food insecurity rose to historic highs in Colorado, and this demand was sustained in 2021. We were able to adapt and add additional markets to our calendar as needed and offered an average of 600+ servings of free, nutritious food per household at each visit.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our education program ramped up in 2021, with an increasing number of classroom presentations, as well as food waste audits in schools across Denver. From first grade, through high school, students learned about the importance of reducing waste, and gained hands-on experience trying new habits to reduce food waste at home and at school.
FILL A PLATE FOR HUNGER

Our largest and most exciting event of the year, the 10th annual Fill a Plate for Hunger, returned as a hybrid event on September 23rd, 2021. The event was hosted at a new venue, ReelWorks Denver, to accommodate the growing attendance of the event, and it was a hit!

The cocktail hour took place in the courtyard, and was accompanied musically by Hazel Miller & The Collective. This led into the main program and dinner service, where we had the opportunity to share some incredible stories from our community members impacted by We Don’t Waste, as well as updates on our programs. Guests also enjoyed a spectacular suite of appetizers and entrées from a menu designed by Chef Troy Guard.

The evening was an awesome success, and we were so glad to be able to celebrate our collective impact on hunger and food waste in-person and virtually with as some of our most passionate supporters.

Learn more at www.wedontwaste.org/fill-a-plate/

CANSTRUCTION COLORADO

Canstruction Colorado made its triumphant return with 6 incredible structures made entirely out of canned foods by local engineering and architecture firms, as well as We Don’t Waste’s very own team structure! During the event, visitors to Stanley Marketplace could walk around the halls to see the structures and vote on their favorite entry.
54% of the food we distributed to our community was fresh food.

We completed 6,585 food pickups, a 9.3% increase.

20,375,600+ servings of food distributed.

33 new food donors.

136 total food donors.

6,791,895 meals distributed.

8,184 metric tons of greenhouse gases (CO2E) prevented.

1,771 passenger vehicles removed from the road for one year.

1,091 U.S. houses powered for one year.

Derived from ReFED Insights Engine.
MOBILE FOOD MARKET IMPACT

We Don’t Waste offered a total of 71 Mobile Food Markets in 2021 across 6 different locations, each serving a different neighborhood of Denver in a food desert, or an area lacking access to affordable, nutritious food. Mobile Food Market participants are offered free proteins, produce, snacks, and more. We also partner with other nonprofit organizations to provide additional crucial resources at each market.

2,790,460+ FOOD SERVINGS DISTRIBUTED at Mobile Food Markets alone

4,580 unique households served
609 average food servings received per family
38% market participants were under 18

“The markets have helped me live more securely, and my kids love going to help pick out treats for themselves!”

- Vivian
Market Participant since 2020
By donating food, these businesses are reducing their climate impact and turning their excess food into opportunity.
Our agency recipient partners make a tremendous impact on hunger and food insecurity across a diverse range of communities in Colorado.

Adams County Food Bank
Agudath Israel of Colorado
ARC Warehouse
Aromor Mercy Housing
Arroyo Village - Rocky Mountain Communities
Backpack Society
Bayaud Enterprises
Beyond Home
Broomfield FISH
Bruce Randolph School
Cannon Learning Center
Caring & Sharing Community Resources
City Harvest
Colorado AIDS Project
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Beacon Place
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Clubhouse
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Fusion Studios
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Renaissance Works Vocational Services
Colorado High School Charter
Colorado Multiethnic Coalition
Comitis Crisis Center
Community Food Share
Community Table - Arvada Food Bank
Conscious Alliance
Counterpath
Crossroads Shelter
Delores Project
Denver Department of Safety
Denver Health Hospital
Denver Human Services
Denver Inner City Parish
Denver Rescue Mission
Denver Regional Council on Governments - Agency on Aging
Eastbay Senior Living Westminster
Empowerment Program
Escalante-Biggs Academy
Focus Points Family Resource Center
Food Bank of the Rockies
Fostersource
Family Resource Center - Sterling
Garden Court - Rocky Mountain Communities
Garden Place Academy
Growing Home
Haven of Hope
Heart & Hand Center
Hope Communities Hidden Brook
Hope House of Colorado
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
Joyful Journeys Community Enrichment
Kenzi’s Causes Toy Shop
Lalo Delgado - Strive Prep Campus
Lifespan Local and Barton Institute
Lutheran Family Services - Rocky Mountains
Mayor’s Office - City and County of Denver Emergency Food Distribution
Mental Health Center of Denver
Metro Caring
Metropolitan State University - STEM Education
New Apostolic Church Food Bank
New Genesis
North Middle School
Presentation of Our Lady
Project Angel Heart
Project Worthmore
RE:Vision
Rose Andom Center
Samaritan House
Second Chance Center Inc.
Secor Cares
Senior Support Services
Servicios De La Raza
Shannon’s Hope
Sharing & Caring Ministries
South High School
Sox Place
Saint Elizabeth Of Hungary Church
Street Fraternity, Inc.
Sunrise Elementary School - CCS
The GrowHaus
The Rising Church in Olde Town Arvada
There with Care
Thrive Church
True Light Baptist Church
Urban Peak
Volunteers of America - Head Start Program
WeeCycle
Weld County Food Bank
West High School
Wyatt Academy
KEY PARTNERS

We Don’t Waste’s partnership with Danone North America and Two Good Yogurt grew in 2021, as did their One Cup, Less Hunger program. For each individual cup of yogurt sold, Two Good donated 2¢ to We Don’t Waste and City Harvest in New York. Two Good’s mission to reduce food waste and hunger aligns with our own, and we look forward to a continued partnership.

CoBank was an incredible partner of We Don’t Waste again in 2021, continuing its vital support of the organization and showing its tremendous community involvement and leadership. CoBank sponsored our Fill a Plate for Hunger event as Presenting Sponsor, supported our Mobile Food Market initiative, and offered many hours of Board of Directors service and volunteer time.

Kiewit Meridiam Partners (KMP) continues to be an outstanding partner to We Don’t Waste. As a founding partner and the very first sponsor of our Mobile Food Market initiative, KMP has continued to support this high-impact effort to increase food security in low-income neighborhoods, ensuring We Don’t Waste is able to provide vital food access for food-insecure families and individuals in our community.
AWARDS AND MILESTONES

Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award

We Don’t Waste was named as the 2020 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder® awardee in Denver. The two year partnership included a grant, comprehensive leadership training, and access to a network of peer organizations across the U.S. This program allowed us to grow our local impact, expand existing programs such as our Mobile Food Markets, and increase our food recovery efforts.

Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) Grant Recipient

We were awarded the 2021 Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) grant to support and provide technical assistance to our efforts to reduce food waste. This program has allowed us to install our first walk-in freezer in our Distribution Center, increasing the amount of servings we are able to recover and store on-site. We were also able to acquire a van to facilitate smaller quantity food pickups.

Impact 100 Metro Denver Grant Recipient

We Don’t Waste was honored to be selected as one of three Impact100 Metro Denver grant recipients in 2021. Impact100 supported We Don’t Waste’s More Haste, Less Waste initiative, focused on increasing operational efficiencies for greater capacity and impact, and creating a volunteer food-recovery network to recover more food.
Our families are always so grateful for all of the food provided because it allows them to save toward rent and other necessities.

— WEST HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS FOOD BANK
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
January 1, 2021 — December 31st, 2021

We Don’t Waste brought an incredible community of partners with us into 2021, and continued our trend of growth from 2020. With a larger fleet, staff, more frequent Mobile Food Markets, and more food pickups than ever before, we look forward to continuing to expand our reach and operations.

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<tr>
<th>REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
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<td>In Kind – Food / Non Food Contributions</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Special Events - Less related expenses</td>
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<td>Net Assets Released From Restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>12,299,074</strong></td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>In Kind – Food / Non Food Contributions</td>
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<td>Total Program Services</td>
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<td>SUPPORTING SERVICES</td>
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<td>Total Supporting Services</td>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
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<td>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, Beginning</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, Ending</td>
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LOOKING AHEAD

Food insecurity continued to be a challenge for our community in 2021, but with amazing support from our community, we have been able to meet the need and plan for the future of food recovery in Colorado.

The main goal that drives us every day is increasing our food recovery in and around Denver. Looking forward, this includes not only growing our staff and vehicle fleet, but also exploring entirely new methods for food recovery. We began developing a program to utilize volunteers as an auxiliary food recovery team for smaller and more agile food pickups, and are excited to launch it in 2022.

We are also focusing on growing our community engagement through education and advocacy. From excitable second-grade classrooms to sitting on the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger policy committee, our team is working hard to make our community more waste-conscious and address food insecurity more broadly.

In addition, we are looking into how we can strengthen and improve our operations to make them more efficient and effective. Working with a process-improvement consulting firm, we’re evaluating and researching the best ways to enhance and scale our food operations to better serve our community and our planet.

Finally, in late 2021 we began a strategic planning process to determine our direction and goals for the next five years. That process should be concluded by fall 2022, and we’re excited to share the results of this work!

The team at We Don’t Waste is extremely grateful for the support of our partners, donors, and volunteers. We have ambitious goals for the future of food recovery in Colorado, and we look forward to having you along for the ride.

— Thank You
GET INVOLVED

DONATE
Your donation will make an immediate impact on hunger in our community. We specialize in food recovery and distribution, and can stretch your dollar to recover more servings and provide countless free, nutritious meals to those experiencing food insecurity. Go to www.wedontwaste.org/donate to give today.

VOLUNTEER
Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization. We have volunteer opportunities available every week for individuals, as well as corporate groups and organizations. Contact us at volunteer@wedontwaste.org to get started.

LEARN
It takes all of us to make a difference on food waste and hunger in our community. Head to our website to learn more about ways to reduce food waste at home, or schedule an education presentation for your colleagues or organization. Go to www.wedontwaste.org/education/ to learn more.

GIVE FOOD
If you own or manage a restaurant, food production facility or distribution center, you can drastically reduce your food waste and make a positive eco-impact by donating your excess food at no cost or liability to yourself. Learn more at www.wedontwaste.org/food-recovery/

PARTNER
Our communities are able to flourish because of our partnerships. We are happy to help you accomplish your Corporate Social Responsibility goals, engage your employees, and partner around a shared purpose. Event sponsorships, program partnerships, and cause-related marketing are just a few of the ways you can get involved. Contact us at development@wedontwaste.org to learn more.

CONNECT WITH US
@WEDONTWASTE  @WEDONTWASTE  /WEDONTWASTE  /WEDONTWASTEDENVER

For all other questions, please get in touch with our Development Team at development@wedontwaste.org.