



CHILDHOOD HUNGER



More than 30% of children under 18 years of age live in poverty in our state leaving many of our youngest citizens at risk of hunger. Every year, more than 90,000 children receive food assistance. In Albuquerque, this would be equivalent to helping every student in the Albuquerque Public School district each year, or providing emergency food to every student in Las Cruces Public Schools almost four times.

The 2010 Hunger Study revealed that more children and their families are seeking help with food. In fact, compared to four years ago, more than 11,000 additional children are being helped through food assistance programs every year.

HUNGRY CHILDREN AND STRUGGLING FAMILIES

- More than 40% of those served by Roadrunner are children.
- 44% of households with children report their family was not eating enough because they couldn't afford food.
- A USDA study indicates that under-nutrition experienced by children during periods of growth impacts their behavior, their school performance, and their overall cognitive development.
- Of households with children, nearly 60% report utilizing the school lunch/breakfast program, but the households they live in still require additional help with food assistance.
- The average monthly income for households served by Roadrunner is \$900.
- On average, SNAP benefits (food stamps) only last 2.3 weeks and many families must still seek food assistance.
- 32% of the households served by Roadrunner have at least one employed adult.

ROADRUNNER FOOD BANK - HELPING HUNGRY CHILDREN IN MANY WAYS



Partner Agencies—Roadrunner distributes food through a network of hundreds of agencies in the state where families with children seek help with food. 40% of those served through partner agencies are children whose families visit food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters seeking help with food.

Food for Kids Program—A weekend backpack program providing food to elementary school children on a weekly basis. The Food for Kids Program is in 47 low-income elementary schools helping 3,495 children every week. The program provides weekend food to children who may not have enough or any food at home to eat. The food included is kid-friendly and non-perishable.

Mobile Food Pantry—40% of those helped through the Mobile Food Pantry are children. The program targets underserved areas and provides a family 50 pounds of perishable and non-perishable food. The program also targets communities where few food programs or grocery stores exist.

Providing Healthy Food—Balanced meals are important for a child's development. Last year 32% of the food we distributed was fresh fruit and vegetables. Perishable foods are distributed through our partner agencies and our Mobile Food Pantry program.