

OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 2024

Mutual
Aid 
Partners



Features

"You cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it."

-Grace Lee Boggs

The power of collective support.

Mutual aid fosters community resilience by creating networks of support. Unlike traditional top-down approaches, mutual aid is flexible and adaptive, rooted in solidarity and focused on addressing the immediate needs of the community in real time.

**Message from Founder/ED
Stephania Vasconez**

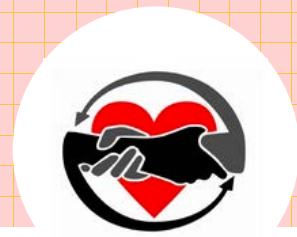
Mutual Aid Partners Distro

2023 Impact Report

**Community
partnerships**



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



In October of 2023, MAP was approached by Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley and United Way of Mesa County to become an anchor partner at a NEW Resource Center to be built in the heart of downtown Grand Junction. An innovative collaborative effort supported by the City of Grand Junction and ARPA funding, with a cause identified as a top priority by community members, became a shared vision.



*-Stephania Vasconez,
Founder & Executive Director*

Fast forward to a year after MAP moved our programming to the resource center and a 40% increase in demand, with a significant number of NEW families, and you could say we've been busy and pretty overwhelmed; however, the work must continue. Our weekly distribution of essential resources including food, clothing, hygiene essentials, period products, and facilitated access to education, health care, and housing, has shown that MAP's impact goes beyond meeting basic needs.

We are grateful for the power of commUNITY and want to say THANK YOU for your energy, love and support as we continue to advocate for our most marginalized community members.

ABOUT MUTUAL AID PARTNERS

We are a grassroots organization focused on community building, advocacy, and education through a platform that reduces food insecurity and centers accessibility and connection between community members, resources, and organizations.

We serve every demographic of this community; from working families to veterans, students to seniors, and our unsheltered neighbors.

Born from an immediate need to fill support gaps during the 2020 pandemic, our work has become a deep-rooted commitment to nurturing sustainable pathways that lower barriers and create positive change in Mesa County.

MUTUAL AID PARTNERS DISTRO



- We are a community of neighbors supporting and advocating for mutual needs
- A distribution of nutritious food, essential supplies, and personal care items
- A platform for community members and organizations to connect to resources and education weekly
- An opportunity to boost collaboration between community organizations through the lens of equity and accessibility

MUTUAL AID DISTRIBUTION DAY



 261 UTE AVE., GRAND JUNCTION, CO



- Free community choice food pantry
- Hygiene essentials/Period products
- Sack lunches
- Hot beverages/Hydration station
- Haircuts/Barber services
- Dog & cat vaccinations
- Resource navigation & advocacy

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY TUESDAY

DONATION DROP OFF 10AM-1PM
PICK UP SUPPLIES 11AM-1PM

PLEASE CHECK IN & FOLLOW SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

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#commUNITYstrong

 970.316.2019  info@MutualAidPartners.org

DÍA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN DE APOYO MUTUO



 261 UTE AVE., GRAND JUNCTION, CO



- Despensas gratis con alimentos que usted puede elegir
- Productos esenciales de higiene personal
- Bolsas de almuerzo
- Bebidas calientes/Estación de hidratación
- Cortes de pelo/Servicios de barbería
- Vacunas para perros y gatos
- Promoción y navegación de recursos comunitarios

ABIERTO AL PÚBLICO TODOS LOS MARTES

ENTREGA DE DONACIONES 10AM-1PM
PARA RECOGER SUMINISTROS 11AM-1PM

POR FAVOR REGISTRESE Y SIGA LAS PRECAUCIONES DE SEGURIDAD

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2023 IMPACT REPORT



Mission and vision

Mutual Aid Partners is a network that supports and connects grassroots efforts in Mesa County, Colorado by facilitating communication & education, and by boosting collaboration & accessibility to resources & volunteers.

Driven by the spirit of solidarity and focusing on action driven, creative solutions, we listen and work within our community to build a deeply rooted, sustainable support system.

01

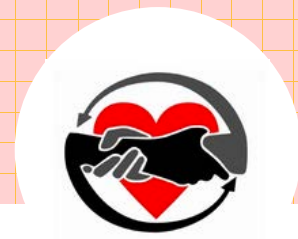


Transparency
Integrity
Respect
Inclusivity
Safety
Outreach
Organic organizing
Advocacy
Justice
Dignity

Participation
Confidentiality
Equity
Compassion
Courage
Empathy
Accountability
Empowerment
Non-Judgement
Non-hierarchical

Our Values

02



Our Priorities

Centering the voices and lived experiences of our community members.

Increased outreach and support to marginalized communities, prioritizing BIPOC, newcomers, and LGBTQIA+ folx.

Advocacy for our unhoused community, those facing housing insecurity, and their pets.

Strengthening community food security through accessibility.

Reshaping misperceptions of marginalized communities.

Developing and empowering mutual aid community advocates.

Financial and operational transparency.

Building strategic pathways with local organizations that work to address our priorities and align with our values.



03

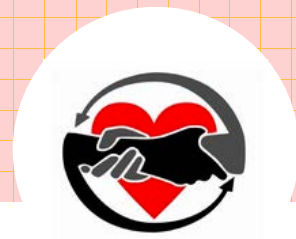
OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Diversity is at the very foundation of Mutual Aid as we elevate and connect the lived experiences and possibilities of individuals.

At Mutual Aid Partners, we center equity and inclusion at the heart of our work by co-creating a culture of kindness, belonging and accountability.

Mutual Aid Partners respects all people and is respectful of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation and the complexities that arise from intersectionality.

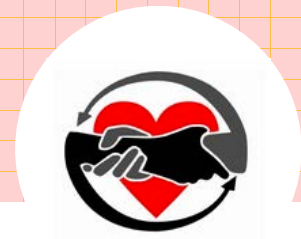
OUTCOMES



- 103,434 lbs. of nutritious food distributed to 10,460 households in Mesa County, including 29,619 lbs. of grocery rescue and 2,800 sack lunches.
- 4,574 volunteer hours meeting basic needs and sharing human connection.
- 2,298 of our neighbors connected to resources onsite at the distro; including sanitation, shelter, health care advocacy, resource navigation, street outreach, pet care referrals, veteran services, migrant education outreach, voter registration, tax credit education, energy assistance, and other family resources.
- 850 marginalized community members supported with direct mutual aid in the form of bus passes, gas cards, phones, shelter, gear, medical and basic living expenses.
- In partnership with Solidarity Not Charity: 520 people were provided peer support, seasonal gear, harm reduction and haircuts.



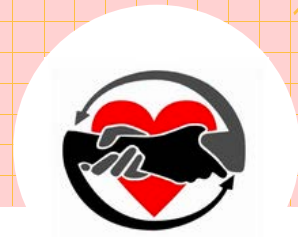
OUTCOMES



- In partnership with Barkley's Hope: 218 furry friends were vaccinated.
- In partnership with Colorado Pet Pantry: 9,240 lbs. of pet food was distributed at the distro.
- In partnership with La Plaza (formerly Child & Migrant Services): 47 children were gifted Christmas gifts.
- In partnership with the Community Resource Center (CRC): MAP supported bilingual tax education & voter registration at the distro engaging 798 people.
- In partnership with Western Colorado Alliance & CRC: MAP cohosted a ballot measure event that provided nonpartisan information to voters.
- As a member of the Mesa County Health Department's Spanish Advisory Group, MAP funded scholarships for interpretation training to promote language justice.
- In partnership with the CMU School of Social Work and in collaboration with the Grand Valley Coalition for the Homeless, MAP facilitated the 2023 Point in Time unsheltered count, a HUD required assessment tool utilized to determine resource allocation and funding for our community.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



MAP advocates for community as part of:

- The Grand Valley Coalition for the Homeless
- Mesa County Collaboration for the Unhoused
- The Resource Center Service Council
- United to Solve Homelessness partner - a United Way of Mesa County program
- Neighbor2Neighbor- a City of GJ initiative
- The Unhoused Strategy & Implementation Plan Basic Needs & Outreach Workgroup
- Mesa County Hunger Alliance
- Spanish Advisory Group
- People Experiencing Houselessness (PEH) Advisory Group -facilitator
- Regional Leaders for the Point in Time (PIT) count

Grateful to our partners and supporters:

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley, Food Bank of the Rockies, United Way of Mesa County, Community Alliance for Education & Hunger Relief, Homeward Bound, Community Food Bank, Karis, Solidarity Not Charity, Western Colorado Alliance, Hilltop, The Street Dog Coalition, Barkley's Hope, Roice-Hurst Humane Society, VA HUD-VASH, Mesa County Public Health, La Plaza Palisade, Western CO Community Foundation, Colorado Health Foundation, City of GJ Nonprofit funds, Lithic Bookstore, Central Distributing.

A very special thanks to our amazing volunteers and all of our supporters; including, but not limited to... Ann Hanson, Suzanne Andrew, Kathy Gardner, Patty Diekman, Julie Kendall, Kelly Hass, D'Alva Messina, Kong Heang Vong, the Ram Dhans, Marian & Karalyn Dorn, Center for Spiritual Living and ALL of the dedicated distro humans who show up every week and share their energy to build community with us!

Want to get involved?

Please visit our website
www.mutualaidpartners.org



@mutualaidpartners

