

Feeding Hope

Winter 2023



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Our Mission

We combat the hunger crisis in our region by strategically procuring and distributing nutritious food through community partners ...

because no one should go hungry.

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El Pasoans Fighting Hunger

New Year, Continued Challenges

Dear caring Friends,

As we move forward in 2023, reflecting on the previous year is only natural. We struggled and overcame so many challenges throughout the year. El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank fed the community through record high inflation, high gas prices, and traveled the continental US to find food. Unfortunately, this year is more of the same.



For us at the food bank, the biggest problem we have is finding food and the financial resources to bring it home to El Paso. Not only are we traveling to all 48 continental U.S. states to procure food, but most of the food we get is in bulk. Bulk items, however, cause even more challenges. They require more workforce to repack and distribute, forcing us to divert volunteers from other vital duties to repacking food, putting us another step behind the growing need in our community.

However, 2022 wasn't without its highlights. We exceeded our El Paso Giving Day fundraising goal, partnered with The City Magazine for a campaign featuring key supporters, and completed construction on our Mercado Canopy right before the new year. These exciting accomplishments were only made possible by the generous support from people like you in our community.

To quote Eleanor Roosevelt, "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it The Present." So, I celebrate you for believing and donating to our cause. It's a "present" of goodwill for today that will help make tomorrow more secure for our most vulnerable neighbors.

2023 is still young, and we lean on you to help make this year the turning point that leads us to a hunger-free borderland. Donate. Volunteer. Because... no one should go hungry.

Susan Goodell
Chief Executive Officer



Shading the Future

Since implementing our Mercado during the height of the pandemic, we've been handing out food literally out in the open. We've tried to keep our volunteers, clients, and food shaded from the elements.

Unfortunately, our solution of using popup tents has done little to keep the sun from beating down nor the wind from ripping fabric to shreds. But fret no more, as funds from a Texas ARPA Capacity Building Grant make it possible for us to shade our Mercado permanently. The days of standing in direct sunlight are behind us.

This permanent canopy is the most significant upgrade to hit our distribution. With temperatures regularly over 100 degrees through much of the summer, this will significantly improve the conditions in which we distribute our food. In addition, this enclosure will also cover our client registration hub as we register and welcome our clients.

The funding comes from the state's ARPA Capacity Building Grant which aims to improve our infrastructure and increase our capacity to serve our community. The new canopy is just one of several projects using this funding. New computer servers and energy-efficient warehouse lighting use funds from this grant, but the canopy is truly the project everyone hoped for most.



El Paso Giving Day



El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank participates in several fundraisers throughout the year. One of the most significant opportunities to raise funds is El Paso Giving Day. This fundraiser is an online charitable giving campaign designed to shine a light on the work of nonprofits while igniting the spirit of giving in our community.

This year we set a lofty goal of \$75,000. After a weeklong campaign and talking with donors like you, we not only made our goal but surpassed it by raising over **\$82,000**. Thanks to you and supporters like you, plus our match donors, our fundraiser was a huge success. We can't thank you enough for the support you have shown us, and thank you to WellMed, Marathon, and Epicenter for their match donations that put us over the top and the Paso Del Norte Foundation for hosting this important fundraiser.



The City Magazine Partnership

Last year we had a fantastic opportunity to partner with Editor-In-Chief Shelley Mozelle of The City Magazine. We had an idea to showcase our most notable supporters; Shelley being among these supporters, personally took our concept and made it a reality. In the November/December issue of The City Magazine, we had a nine-page article showcasing Mayor Oscar Leeser, County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, Bishop Mark Seitz, and many more. You can go to thecitymagazineelp.com to see this genuinely one-of-a-kind article. **Because of supporters like you and those featured in the magazine, you keep our cause a priority in our community. Thank you all so much!**



Megan McCormick, KLAQ



Oscar Ugarte,
Constable Precinct 1

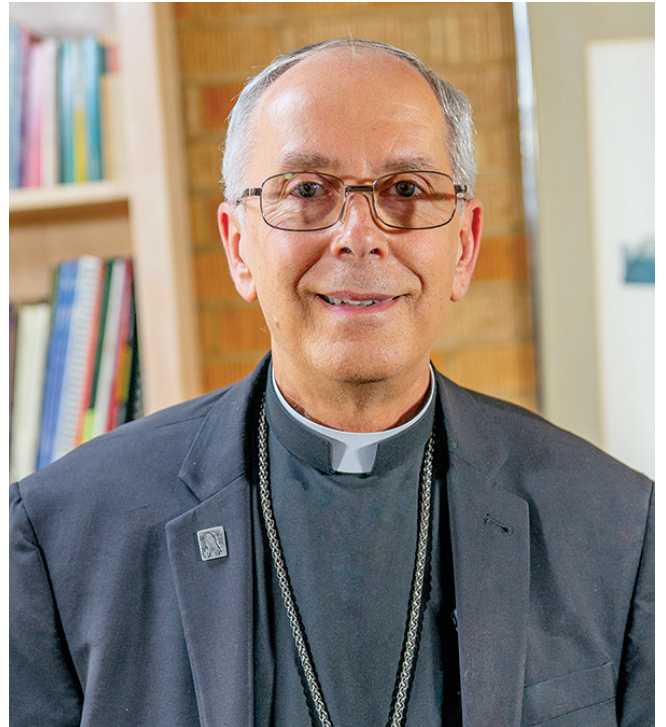


Bishop Mark Seitz



Monica Cortez, KTSM

Welcome, Bishop Mark Seitz, Our Newest Board Member



We are pleased to announce that Bishop Mark Seitz has joined our board of Directors. He has served as a pastor at parishes in Garland, Waxahachie, and Dallas, Texas. He also taught Liturgy and Sacramental Theology at the University of Dallas and served as vice-rector and director of liturgy at Holy Trinity Seminary. Bishop Seitz was named prelate of honor to his holiness by Pope St. John Paul II in 2004.

In 2013, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Seitz as the sixth Bishop of El Paso. As a prelate serving a borderland community whose sister city is Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, the Bishop has focused his work and heart on the poor and vulnerable, including migrant families and refugees who have made their home in this region or who choose the community as their point of passage. The Bishop believes that migrants add inestimable value to the communities where they choose to live, and that parishes and community members should welcome them with compassion, love, and solidarity.

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