

Feeding Taos County's Needy Families for 20 Years

TAOS FEEDS TAOS 2005

Thank YOU citizens of Taos County for your generosity over these years!



In 1987, 500 baskets were distributed by the National Guard. Pictured from left: Otivino Lucero, SPC Robert Duran, SFC Francis Cordova, SFC Jimmy Maes, Jim Ulmer, Taos Mayor Lawrence Santistevan, General Baca, Eloy Jeantete.



The National Guard has played a pivotal role in the TFT project from the beginning. Pictured in 1988: Jim Ulmer, General Baca, Father Chavez, SFC Francis Cordova, and General Cisneros preparing to distribute food baskets.

TAOSFEEDSTAOS MILESTONES

1986

Jim Ulmer, member of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, came up with the idea. TAOS FEEDS TAOS (TFT) was born with the cooperation of VFW Commander Lawrence Vargas, Kiwanian President Jim Oakeley, SFC Francis Cordova, and the blessing of General Baca, head of the New Mexico National Guard. 300 families were provided with food baskets the first year. The total expenditure was \$12,000.

1988

500 baskets were distributed. KOAT awards Jim Ulmer the Jefferson Award for outstanding service to the community.

1992

Jim Ulmer retired from TFT due to failing health and **Kiwanian Felix Trujillo and wife Alyce**, along with Lawrence Vargas and many volunteers, took on the project.

1994

Felix Trujillo received the **KOAT Jefferson Award** for community service.

1997

Felix retired from Taos Feeds Taos and Town Manager **Gus Cordova** gathered a committee of concerned citizens to take over TFT. Representative Bobby Gonzales, Eloy Jeantete, Cheryl Hyland, John Otis, Francis and Ernestina Cordova were part of the original group that soon became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 300 baskets were assembled within a two week period.

2000

The assembly and distribution of food was managed out of the brand new **National Guard Armory** on NM Hwy 570.

2002

Attorney General Patricia Madrid facilitated the only State grant TFT has received, \$20,000 from the Vitamin Settlement Fund. This was a record year with 1200 boxes distributed at a cost of over \$48,000.

2005

Celebrating twenty years with plans to distribute 1000 boxes of food throughout Taos County: Amalia, Costilla, Cerro, Chamisal, Llano, Peñasco, Picuris, Questa, Taos, Taos Pueblo, Trampas, and Vadito.

Kiwanian **Felix Trujillo** being honored with the Jefferson Award in 1994 with Governor Bruce King, Taos Ski Valley general manager Mickey Blake, and General Ed Baca.



State Representative **Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales** helps deliver a food box at the old armory in 1998.



Governor Bill Richardson addresses the board, the guard, concerned citizens and a host of appreciative recipients before the official commencement of the 2004 distribution of 1000 boxes.



The **Taos High School** mariachi band performs during the opening ceremonies, 2004. High school students have been responsible for collecting tons of nonperishable foods for the TFT project over the past twenty years.

TAOSFEEDSTAOS NOTABLE QUOTES

"Back in 1986 as the cold war ended, my vision was to integrate the guard back into their communities, to serve the people they lived with. When Francis (Cordova) and Jim (Ulmer) approached me about using the guardsmen, the armory, and our vehicles to collect and distribute food to the needy in Taos County, I saw the perfect opportunity to accomplish all of our goals. Since that first year, whenever I travel to other states and interact with other National Guard units, I cite Taos as a model for good soldiering. Taos Feed Taos is an example of how the guard can, and should, interact with their community."

Lieutenant General USA (retired)

Edward D. Baca

"The Guard's involvement in TFT has had consequences far beyond the actual distribution of food. The new armory was funded by both State and Federal funds as a 'community facility' with classrooms, meeting rooms, and more expansive space than a bare-box military armory because the Taos Guard had proven itself to be a community resource."

State Representative

Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales

"Since 1997 we have delivered over 7000 baskets and the amount spent for food has been in excess of \$500,000. This project would not be a success without the support of the National Guard, the public school children for food and monetary contributions, and hundreds of volunteers throughout Taos. Mary and I call it a MIRACLE."

Former Taos Mayor
Eloy Jeantete



The 2005 board of Taos Feeds Taos.

Back row: Eloy Jeantete, Ethel Rose, Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales, Francis Cordova, John Otis. Middle row: Mabel Jeantete, Pauline Mondragon, Janet Webb. Front row: Ernestina Cordova, Cheryl Hyland, Rita Santistevan, Geraldine Chacon. Inset: Mary Jeantete.

LOVEJOYPEACE



HOW YOU CAN HELP

MONETARY DONATIONS:

WWW.TAOSFEEDSTAOS.ORG

OR MAIL TO: TAOS FEEDS TAOS
4351 NDCBU
TAOS NM 87571

FOOD DONATIONS:

Drop-off boxes for nonperishable food are located at businesses throughout Taos until December 20.

VOLUNTEER:

Please come by the National Guard Armory on December 16 and 17, between 9am and 4pm.

