



feed the hungry san miguel

THE
CHILDHOOD NUTRITION
ORGANIZATION

WHO WE ARE*

Beginning as a small grassroots charitable organization founded in 1984 in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato; Feed the Hungry is a non-profit organization registered in the USA and Mexico. We are committed to improving the health and the well being of children in San Miguel de Allende by alleviating hunger through healthy school meals, family nutrition education and community development programs.

WHAT WE DO

We operate a combination of poverty alleviation programs that serve thousands of children in kindergarten and elementary schools, as well as their families. We implement our programs in kitchens attached to elementary schools in 36 communities and provide sustenance to 7 local charitable organizations within the San Miguel de Allende municipality. A comprehensive list and map of locations can be found in <https://feedthehungrysma.org/index.php/communities/>



DID YOU KNOW ?

The early years of a child's nutritional health are critical. Children will never reach their potential if they are nutritionally deprived during this stage of their lives.

SPECIAL COVID-19 "FEED THE FAMILIES" EMERGENCY OPERATION

Immediately after the Public Secretariat of Education announced the closing of public schools (and kitchens) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Feed the Hungry operations team retooled all its activity to distribute food to the families of the children who we normally serve.

Until we are able to resume the school meals program, we remain committed to providing bags of food for as many as 4,000 families. In addition to the 36 communities typically supported by FTH, the program has expanded to reach beneficiaries of other NGOs, such as Centro Infantil de los Angeles, Casita Linda, SOME (So Others May Eat), Mujeres En Cambio, and nine organized colonias that have identified families in need in the urban San Miguel area. Total estimated number of persons benefiting from this program: 18,000. The Presidential Municipality, through the Dirección de Cultura y Tradiciones, continues to support this operation by providing volunteers and their own trucks and drivers to help with the daily distribution of food pantries to each community every two weeks. Visit our website at for the latest numbers and information to this emergency operation.



HOW WE DO IT

We respond to requests from parents in a specific village and/or their school administrators. An evaluation is then undertaken to assess poverty level, number of students (ages 3 to 12), and its location (distance and other access issues). Interviews with the school principals, teachers, and parents are conducted in order to confirm that the prospective school qualifies for Feed the Hungry consideration. Cooperation of teachers and parents is essential to the success and sustainability of each school kitchen installed by FtH.

If the evaluative criteria fits the FtH operational model, a kitchen is outfitted and staffed with cooks (either volunteer mothers, or hired from the community) who receive continuous training and supervision.

The installations provided by Feed the Hungry remain property of the government.

A detailed timeline can be found on our website: feedthehungrysma.org

*There is a Feed the Hungry organization based in the USA; i.e. multinational religious organization with the same general goal of feeding children
Feed the Hungry San Miguel has no affiliation with that organization



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THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- The current population of greater San Miguel de Allende is 180,000.
- Approximately half of this population (90,000) resides in the city of San Miguel. About 15,000 of this population is made of ex-pats.
- The remaining 90,000 live outside the city of San Miguel; the campo.
- It is estimated that 52% of the population in the state of Guanajuato live in poverty or extreme poverty. This is the segment of the population FtH targets.

As of January 2020, we support the Kinder/Primaria/Telesecundaria levels (ages 3 to 12) in 36 schools with meals services and 7 local charities with food supplies that they prepare themselves. Two meals a day are served in nine of the schools. In 2019, 975,695 meals were served to nearly 4000 beneficiaries.

School attendance increases by as much as 25% where FtH operates a kitchen, because the children must attend school to receive the hot lunch.

FtH is also focusing on ways to provide quality nutrition to children younger than preschool age, 0-3. Adequate nutrition during infancy and early childhood is essential to ensure the growth health, and development of children to their full potential.

The Feed the Families Program anticipates to generate Over 10 million meals by the end of 2020.

OUR FUNDING SOURCES

More than 95% of our operational funds come from charitable giving.

General donations from mailing list appeals, online fundraising, and personal solicitations.

Kitchen Angels pledges for three-year support for one or more school kitchens. The cost to set up and maintain a kitchen ranges from US\$5,000 up to US\$35,000 annually, based on the number of meals served (some schools receive 2 meals a day).

Commemorate the Memory of a Loved one One-time donation of \$15,000 USD can enable us to build a new school kitchen or dining room and dedicate it to someone you would like to honor. A dedication ceremony with placement of a commemorative plaque will be conducted.

Planned Giving By making a legacy gift through planned giving, donors can create a lifelong impact on the lives of the neediest children of San Miguel by listing the organization as a beneficiary of their will; IRA, 401(k) or other retirement plan; bank account, investment account, and/or annuity.

Foundations and religious institutions

Special events (Spring and Fall), seasonal direct mail campaigns (2) and a signature event.

Mexican government grants for supplies and equipment.



Inauguration of a new dining room built and donated by Kitchen Angel, Arq. Rafael Franco, in the community of Estancia de San Antonio, December 2019

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The operations support volunteer program consists of more than 80 volunteers from the San Miguel de Allende community, managed by the Volunteer Coordinator with 3 teams, each headed by a lead volunteer. Without the dedicated team of volunteer food packers, delivery drivers and the special ops group, it would be impossible for FtH to fulfill its mission of feeding nearly 4000 school children every school day.



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CORE PROGRAM: HEALTHY MEALS

In the past FTH built the kitchens and hired the cooks. To get communities invested in our program, they must now build their kitchen and provide volunteer cooks, who are trained and monitored by our nutritionists.

Following an evaluation of the nutritional needs of the children that Feed the Hungry San Miguel serves; the nutrition staff develops appropriate menus and recipes. Women from the villages are hired and trained as cooks in the majority of Feed the Hungry's school kitchens. Mothers volunteer to operate the kitchens that do not have paid cooks. Both paid staff and volunteer cooks receive continuous on-the-job training related to meal preparation, nutrition, and kitchen hygiene.

Kitchen supervisors visit the school kitchens weekly to inventory foodstuffs, to write up the weekly delivery orders, and inspect the kitchens for compliance with hygiene and sanitation standards. Great attention is paid to making the nutritionally balanced meals as tasty as possible to encourage a child's enthusiastic acceptance of healthy eating habits and new foods.

Feed the Hungry carefully selects the local sources for the purchase of its foodstuffs – meat, poultry, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, and dry goods – to ensure quality, fair pricing, and reliable availability. It is estimated that on an annual basis, over 30 tons of foodstuffs are transported to the warehouse facility and delivered to 36 school locations and 7 local charities on a weekly basis.



CORE PROGRAM: FAMILY NUTRITION EDUCATION

Our staff nutritionists conduct Family Nutrition Educational workshops for the mothers of the children we serve. Individualized counseling is provided to the mothers of children categorized as severely malnourished, or obese. The health and nutrition of each individual child served by Feed the Hungry San Miguel is evaluated on a semi-annual basis to identify improvements or deficiencies in the child's nutritional health.

Obesity is a serious health problem; a phenomenon in developing countries where many struggle with food scarcity. Since 2010 Mexico has ranked number one in the world in infant obesity. Improving diet quality is the single most important preventive and remedial answer to addressing this problem—this is the objective that underlies the Family Nutrition Education program.

Communities must build their own school kitchen, although we provide all supplies and equipment. FTH menus are provided to the mothers for use in their own homes for their families. This creates an environment of SELF-SUSTAINABILITY.

For an overview of FTH cooperative programs, please visit <http://feedthehungryma.org/programs/cooperative-programs/>



Media releases and articles are available at
<https://feedthehungryma.org/index.php/prensa/>

For additional information on our organizational structure and operational details please refer to our Talking Points



For further inquiries regarding Feed the Hungry San Miguel, please contact Paola Juárez at pjuarez@feedthehungryma.org