



*Thank you  
Las Cruces!*

**A TRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY'S SELFLESS SERVANTS • SEPT. 11, 2020**

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# Giving thanks and taking names

**By RICHARD COLTHARP**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Ron Cavill and his wife, Susan, joined the long line at Dairy Queen, to get a dipped cone.

With COVID-19 limiting our lives at every turn, an ice cream treat is one of the few simple pleasures available these days. But how simple is it, really? Cavill wondered.

He saw the crew, many of them teenagers, working in a small kitchen with a relentless backlog of customers.

We're aware of the medical professionals dealing with the Coronavirus, and the first responders and teachers going the extra mile.

But when the Cavills saw that crew, they realized how many people are working in so many unheralded ways behind the scenes and hidden in plain view to keep our world limping along.

Sure, an ice cream cone isn't that big of a deal, but many of us are hanging by threads, emotionally, economically and otherwise. You never know if something as simple as a frosty treat and a smile is what keeps us from unraveling.

Here are some of Ron's direct words on the subject:

“There is no question the entire community of Las Cruces has been impacted by this pandemic. Some have experienced a heavier load, but all have felt the weight and the disruption of these past months.

“How deeply we are ultimately affected will be, in large part, dependent on how we react as a community.”

“We can all agree first-line workers deserve a big vote of appreciation: Those individuals who did not

have a choice and answered the call to give it their best effort. We extend our love and support to them. They are heroes.

“Let us not forget the thousands it took to keep our community operating in a somewhat normal capacity. We were notably inconvenienced by a lack of toilet paper and other ‘essentials’ for a short time. However, we made it!

“We made it because of the thousands who went to work every day to fulfill our needs and to maintain a level of normal life support.

“I think of the grocery-store workers who were there every day. I think of the fast food workers working in tight quarters to provide an alternative to a can of tuna fish. I think of the delivery people who brought dinner, clothing, books and supplies.

“In our city, the largest employer is government. The government continued to work with various degrees of success. The next five largest employers are 1) health care and social assistance; 2) retail trade; 3) food service and lodging; 4) waste management and administrative services; and 5) construction.

“Many of our neighbors employed in these six industries have found themselves totally out of work. That is regrettable. Nonetheless, thousands of others have buckled down and gone to work. Many had no choice – some did make the conscious choice. They deserve our support and admiration.

"Below is a partial list of sectors of our community that deserve our hearty 'Thank you.' I am sure there are many more and I apologize for those not mentioned specifically. You are all greatly appreciated."

## CRITICAL NEEDS

- Medical Personnel: Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, Lab Techs, CNAs, Pharmacists
- Assisted-Living Facilities
- First Responders: Firefighters, Police, EMTs, Animal Control
- Educators: Teachers, Tutors, Staff
- Janitorial & Cleaning Services
  - Mail & Delivery Services
  - Farm & Ranch Workers
  - Grocery Store Workers

*Thank you!*

## VITAL NECESSITIES

- Automobile Sales & Service
- Gasoline & Convenience Stores
- Trash Pick-up • Construction Industry
- Electricians • Plumbers • Carpenters
- Roofers • HVAC Techs • Real Estate Agents • Mortgage Companies • Title Companies • Banks & Credit Unions
- Investment Advisors • Insurance Agents • Computer & Tech Support
- Hardware Stores • Drug Stores
- Food Service Industry • Drive Through Services • Carry Out
- Restaurant Supply • Food Trucks
- Veterinary & Pet Care •
- Transportation Industry • Truckers
- Taxis – Uber – Lyft • Railroad • Airline Personnel • Bus Drivers • Retail Stores

*Thank you!*

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*Thank you Las Cruces!*

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# How you can help those who are helping others?

The global pandemic has opened wide the many cracks in our society. Unfortunately, those cracks have always been there. Many New Mexicans, often people struggling themselves, have stepped forward to help others in need in a variety of ways during the Coronavirus.

Have you found yourself wanting to help, but not knowing where to start? Below is a list of just some of the local and regional organiza-

tions where you can donate your time, your equipment, your unique abilities or your money during the current crisis and beyond.

Many have found their lives changed by the work they do for others.

What can we do?

It's simple: Support all businesses and nonprofits in our community.

Here are some local nonprofits that would benefit from your support:

- Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM): Multiple COVID-19 response programs; helped raise more than \$700,000 during the pandemic and provided benefits to nearly 2,000 families in the region, particularly those in rural areas. Through an additional partnership with the United Way of Southwest New Mexico, there will be a second round of nonprofit emergency funding for fall 2020 focused on the recovery and resiliency of the nonprofit community. And, there are additional dollars and support available through the Thank you Las Cruces Restaurant Fund, which gives \$1,000 to a restaurant partner who will then assist with 100 free meals to the community. **[www.communityfoundationofsouthernnewmexico.com](http://www.communityfoundationofsouthernnewmexico.com). 521-4794.**
- Families & Youth, Inc.: Mayors Meals program, My Friends Place youth shelter and El Crucero transitional living facility. **[www.dws.state.nm.us/nmccv/Programs/Families-and-Youth-Inc](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/nmccv/Programs/Families-and-Youth-Inc).**
- Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation. Las Cruces internet and virtual learning access. **<http://lcpsf.org/>.**
- La Casa, Inc. domestic violence program: housing and emergency shelter operations and supplies. **[www.lacasainc.org](http://www.lacasainc.org). 526-2819.**
- La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services: SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) unit for medical and operating supplies and expanded staff hours. **[www.lapinon.org](http://www.lapinon.org). 526-3437.**
- Casa de Peregrinos emergency food program: operating supplies, including food and staff. Helping meet vital local needs during this time, with particular attention to food pantries in the rural areas of our region. **[www.casadeperegrinos.org](http://www.casadeperegrinos.org). 523-5542.**
- Mesilla Valley Community of Hope: rapid rehousing/homeless prevention. With help from funding from the City of Las Cruces, the organization is able to add during this time a focus on rental assistance and eviction support. **[www.mvcommunityofhope.org](http://www.mvcommunityofhope.org). 523-2219.**
- Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico (CAA): Thriving Families COVID community assistance program. CAA partnered with CFSNM on the Governor Richardson, Olmos, Trejo, Lopez Covid Response for Southern Colonias in Doña Ana County. The project served almost 300 individuals, which impacted more than 1,000 individuals in 10 colonias in the southern part of our county. **<https://caasnm.org/>. 527-8799.**
- Fishes & Loaves food pantry: food boxes for the elderly. **575-523-1272.**



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## COVID donations have benefited many.

- Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico: crime and domestic violence program. Also providing rental assistance, electricity and utilities support during COVID-19. **<https://catholiccharitiesdlc.org/>. 527-0500.**
- Revolution 120: supporting local restaurants. **<http://revolution120.org/>.**
- United Way of Southwest New Mexico. Currently running a Stamp Out Hunger campaign. **[www.uwswnm.org](http://www.uwswnm.org). 524-7561.**
- El Caldito Soup Kitchen. **[www.elcalditolc.org](http://www.elcalditolc.org). 525-3831.**
- Amador Health Center: providing care to the entire Las Cruces community, including dedicated support for homeless, LGBTQ and immigrant populations. **<https://amadorhealth.org/>. 527-5482.**
- Mesilla Valley CASA: for direct services to children aging out of foster care. **[www.mesillavalleycasa.org](http://www.mesillavalleycasa.org). 527-0035.**
- NMSU Foundation: to support all things Aggie. Particularly critical right now is the Aggie Cupboard food program for students currently on campus. **<https://support.nmsu.edu/>. 646-1613.**
- LCPS Foundation: Benefitting the students of Las Cruces Public Schools. **<http://lcpsf.org/>. 527-5888.**
- Turning Point. **[www.pregnancylascruces.com](http://www.pregnancylascruces.com). 522-8378.**
- Doña Ana County Humane Society. **[www.dachslc.org](http://www.dachslc.org). 647-4808.**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters. **[www.bbbsmountainregion.org](http://www.bbbsmountainregion.org). 522-9530.**
- Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces: actively connecting youth to programming via their club to go boxes, meals at least twice a day; now open to 40 to 50 kids. **[www.bgclascruces.org](http://www.bgclascruces.org). 526-1519.**
- Jardin de los Niños: caring for children of homeless families; currently supporting 35+ families. Jardin is doing food baskets weekly, supporting families that were once in a home that are back on the street, opening the school back up and keeping staff engaged to support the whole family during the entire COVID-19 timeframe. **[www.jardinlc.org](http://www.jardinlc.org). 522-2111.**
- Mesilla Valley Hospice. **[www.mvhospice.org](http://www.mvhospice.org). 523-4700.**
- East Mesa Baptist Church Food Bank: focusing on the eastern side of the city that is in real need on a weekly basis. **[www.eastmesabaptist.org](http://www.eastmesabaptist.org). 382-0386.**
- Asombro Institute for Science Education: pivoting their educational elements with to-go packets and online modules completely free for families. **[www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org). 524-3334.**
- Salvation Army of Las Cruces: assisting with rent, utilities and issues with evictions. **[www.lascruces.salvationarmy.org](http://www.lascruces.salvationarmy.org). 524-4713.**

**Thank you to our community's selfless servants!**