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## **Growing Community Now**

Growing Community Now is a program to put local fields in production by local farmers to feed children in daycare and school with local organic lunches. We currently feed over 400 students and work with several farms and are looking to expand the program to a local elementary and middle school to feed hundreds more. We are learning the regulations and tapping into USDA dollars to achieve this goal. We will use this program to train new farmers and have interns who will also learn how to farm and eventually be able to receive contracts to grow food for the programs. We give presentations in the schools to teach about local foods, nutrition, and agriculture and provide farm experience and tastings for children to experience all aspects of food grown for their lunches while expanding their families' palates. We are looking to use this program as a base to expand and eventually tap into existing programs and to create programs that will help address food insecurity directly by providing breakfasts and dinners for people in need. This program also addresses issues in agricultural land and water rights conservation, an aging farmer population, and employment opportunities for youth, among others.

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## **Details**

**Ages:** Children and Youth

**Contact:** Micah Roseberry

**Contact Email:** micahroseberry@hotmail.com

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## **Services**

Food Educational Programs Health Support/Education/Insurance

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## **Locations**

**Phone:** (575) 770-8307

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## **Parent Organization**

### **Agriculture Implementation Research & Education (AIRE)**

To gather the people and plant the fields. Growing Community Now is a program that is putting local fields in production by local farmers to feed children in daycare and school with local organic lunches. We currently feed over 400 students in public charter, Taos Pueblo and NM preK Schools. We work with several farms and are looking to expand the program to a local elementary and middle school to feed hundreds more. We will use this program to train new farmers and have interns who will also learn how to farm and eventually be able to receive contracts to grow food for the programs. We give presentations in the schools to teach about local foods, nutrition, and agriculture and provide farm experience and tastings for children to experience all aspects of food grown for their lunches while expanding their families' palates. This program

serves as a base to expand and eventually tap into existing programs and to create programs that will help address food insecurity directly by getting local fields in production, improve the local agriculture economy and provide breakfasts and dinners for people in need. This program also addresses issues in agricultural land and water rights conservation, an aging farmer population, and employment opportunities for youth, among others.

*908 Sol Feliz  
Taos, NM 87571*

***Phone:*** (575) 770-8307

***Primary Contact:*** Miguel Santistevan

***Contact Email:*** [solfelizfarm@gmail.com](mailto:solfelizfarm@gmail.com)

***Type:*** Nonprofit

***EIN:*** 27-4417875

***<http://www.growfarmers.org>***