Our Community Impact 2021: Leprino Foods Company Denver

To support the communities where we live and work, Leprino Foods Company Denver employees and the Leprino Foods Company Foundation (LFCF) annually partner with local nonprofits and other organizations to provide philanthropic donations and volunteer support. Since 2015, the LFCF has contributed over $3M to the communities where we operate.

Our Denver employees volunteer their time to help improve livelihoods, foster empowerment, and build resilient communities. Volunteering is employee-driven, and activities support four focus areas of Nutrition, Education, Fitness, and Local Needs. In Denver, we are proud to be involved with local and regional organizations that celebrate the many diverse cultures, communities and lifestyles that comprise our community like youth, families, veterans, elderly, and LGBTQI.

Leprino Foods Company has strong roots in the northwest community where its Denver office has resided since 1950. Focused on building a stronger Denver, our employee-driven Community Impact Team (CIT), with the Leprino Foods Company Foundation (LFCF), provided more than $254,000 in monetary donations and grants to 37 organizations.

With education as one of the focus areas, the LFCF provided over $100,000 for the LeprinoScholars Scholarship Program to encourage dependents of Leprino Foods employees to pursue a higher education. The LFCF also provided a $50,000 donation to the Denver Scholarship Foundation and North High School received $18,750 to support a designated counselor for college preparation. As a sponsor of Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, the LFCF provided a $25,000 grant to focus on empowering girls through the Eureka program with many components of the program executed at the Denver office. The Colorado Future Farmers of America Foundation received a $10,000 grant, as part of a five-year support initiative.

In 2021, the Denver CIT secured a $10,000 LFCF grant for Big Green to help create and refresh gardens at local schools; a $10,000 LFCF grant supported the work of the Tennyson Center for Children; and another $10,000 LFCF grant helped the Seniors’ Resource Center with badly needed equipment in its facility in Wheatridge, Colo. The Redistribution Center received a $7,500 LFCF grant for its numerous impact programs for veterans. In addition, each year, the Denver office hosts an Impact Week. Employee volunteers help plant gardens, cook meals at homeless shelters, build houses, and help make improvements to grounds and facilities for several local non-profit organizations. During 2021, we planted flowers at Little Sisters of the Poor, cooked and served lunch for the Delores Project shelter, provided grounds clean up and gardening at the Seniors’ Resource Center, and helped clean Denver roadways. We also sponsored a house build, engaging more than 40 volunteers, in coordination with Habitat for Humanity. A $20,000 donation supported the project.

With an overarching purpose as an organization to sustainably feed and nourish families around the world, we feel particularly strong about our commitment to nutrition. The pandemic increased food insecurity in our communities and, as a result, we doubled down on our product donations both locally and nationally. Each month we donate cheese and pizza to the SAME (So All May Eat) Café, Little Sisters of the Poor, Samaritan House, and the Denver Rescue Mission. In 2021 we also donated over 41,000 lbs. of cheese to local food banks and local organizations including Food Bank of the Rockies, Freshlo, SAME Café, Metro Caring, We Don’t Waste, Seniors’ Resource Center and Denver Inner City Parish. The Denver CIT held a canned food drive in 2021 for its neighbor, Bienvenidos Food Bank, with nearly 1,500 lbs. of non-perishable food donated. We collected personal care items like shampoo, soap, shaving cream, and toothpaste for the Delores Project, a shelter for homeless women and transgender individuals. We also hosted a diaper drive for Catholic Charities Bottom Line, which resulted in more than 2,500 diapers being donated. Each year Denver employees also coordinate a “Giving Tree” during the holidays to provide gifts and needed personal care items children and families at Bryant Webster Elementary School, the Tennyson Center for Children and Mount Saint Vincent.

Donations totaling $7,000 went to support various local needs including the Boulder Crisis Fund to help the community in its time of need following a devastating mass shooting; The Center on Colfax, to help provide a safe place for Denver’s LGBTQI community; the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, for research; Family Tree, for its women’s shelter and family programs; and Food for Thought, an entirely volunteer-run organization that provides PowerSack bags of non-perishable food for more than 10,000 elementary kids at 76 schools in metro Denver as well as food pantries in eight high schools. Additional donations focused on our neighbors in the Highlands and Sunnyside communities, including a donation for the Sunnyside Music Festival, Rotary Club and Sun Valley Youth Center, where monies helped fund bike helmets for the summer program. Finally, to support community health during the pandemic, a COVID vaccine clinic was held at the Denver office to help vaccinate employees, their families, and members of the community.

We are proud of the partnerships we’ve built and organizations we have been able to support in our community. We look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on our community and the people in it.
MAKING AN IMPACT CLOSE TO HOME

For our 2021 Impact Week, about 40 employees volunteered with longtime partner Habitat for Humanity. The building of a nearby new home was made possible by the generosity of Leprino Foods Company, which matched a $10,000 Leprino Foods Company Foundation grant.

KEEPING I-25 CLEAN

For several years, the IT team has been keeping a mile-long stretch of Interstate 25 looking good through the Adopt-a-Highway program. A crew puts in a few hours three or four times a year.

TAKING PRIDE IN DIVERSITY

Our CIT made a $1,000 donation to The Center on Colfax, the largest LGBTQ community center in the Rocky Mountains.

2,700+ DIAPERS

Collected by employees for the Bottom Line Diaper Bank run by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Denver.