

“We didn’t have the desire to start a restaurant, but my husband was a chef for 25 years, and the relationship people have with food- how it brings people together, is clear. One Grub is El Paso’s first 100% plant-based food establishment. Our mission is in place to help balance the scales of plant-based food access regardless of means. At the diner One Grub Community, we serve meals to collect income and tips to supplement the donations that make flexible pricing and free meals possible.

We started this business because we believe healthy food access is a right for everyone. We aim to provide plant-based food access to the people of our community, regardless of means. We use food as a vehicle to cultivate and promote healthy and sustainable living and community while breaking down barriers to food sovereignty. We do that by initiating programs that utilize income and tips to provide plant-based food on a flexible scale and we provide an opportunity for our community to give back.

When we first decided to start One Grub Community, finding capital to get started was tough. We have debt to manage, like our mortgage and school loans, so a lot of doors were automatically closed to us. When I applied to PeopleFund, I was able to get a loan for a woman-owned business. This enabled us to get going and create One Group Community to start serving others. PeopleFund has been instrumental in our success and continues to make useful resources available to us.

This past year has been tough in so many ways, things are still shifting every day. El Paso has been hit especially hard by COVID-19, and it’s hard to see your community go through that. From a business perspective, we’ve had to really strengthen our online and e-commerce presence. We are really lucky, we have a great support system and clientele. With all the things people have to worry about right now, it’s good to know that even through this tragedy and chaos we are still able to provide people with plant-based food and offer food to those in need. And it’s because of the community that we’re able to do that.”

- Adriana Wilcox, One Grub Community