

Hunger doesn't take a vacation

**Help us continue our
mission of helping to feed
individuals and families
across NYC.**

Many children in the U.S. see summer as a welcome relief from homework and classroom routines.

For the youth in New York City, however, summer can be the **HUNGRIEST** time of year. It can also mean a time of heightened food insecurity for the thousands of students and families enrolled in free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs that are available during the school year. When school is out for summer, approximately **1 in 5 children** rely on programs like NYCP for a nutritious meal to get through a hot summer day.

**Which is why we need your
support! A donation of
\$50 will help NYCP feed
40 young people this**

summer, providing fresh
fruits and vegetables,
beans, rice, milk and other
basic food items that every
growing child needs to stay
strong and healthy. A gift

of any amount will allow us to
further our mission of reducing
hunger and promoting dignity, health
and self-sufficiency. ■

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"I have built a family here, a community of friends, I see for breakfast and dinner. I have built hope."

MEET TOM JONES

New York City is a place filled with potential, hopes and dreams, but it is also filled with many harsh realities. Approximately 1 in 3 people live below the poverty line. Meet Tom Jones Jr.

veteran New York Common Pantry guest. Once homeless, he is no stranger to the hardships that many individuals and families endure in New York

City. As a guest of New York Common Pantry, Mr. Jones utilizes many of the services that NYCP provides to help clients create self-sufficiency. From the first day Mr. Jones walked through the doors of New York Common Pantry he has been able to gradually create a "new normal" with the help of case managers and programs like Hot Meals, Project Dignity, and Choice Pantry. When asked what the best thing about New York Common Pantry is, he emphatically replied: "They treat you like a human being. People treat you with love and dignity." Waiting on line for his weekly hair cut, he recalls with a smile on his face "I have built a family here, a community of friends, I see for breakfast and dinner. I have built hope." ■

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

We live in a time of harsh realities. Recent economic mobility data from Harvard shows that only 50% of Americans born in 1980 will earn more than their parents did. In New York City the cost of a meal is 73 cents more than the national average, and 42% of households in the city can't cover basic necessities. One in ten working New Yorkers are food insecure.

NYCP's determination to address such realities requires us to stay ready, and we've done so. In the past year this has meant that when 19% of the city's soup kitchens closed, we were ready to increase the number of hot meals we served by 30%. We were ready to serve furloughed Federal workers not receiving a paycheck. We were ready for an 80% spike in families served the week after SNAP benefits ran out due to the shutdown. And we were ready to serve more Bronx residents, for whom food insecurity is a pressing issue, increasing our services there by 50% in just one year.

However, as we did all this something else was happening. Across the U.S. donations to charities were down, as hundreds of thousands of Americans gave less due to the new tax laws, as more and more wealth was locked up in donor-advised funds and not given out, and as market turmoil reduced the ability of some to give. Like others of our peers in the emergency food field it means that NYCP is behind in our projected revenue. In fact, as of this writing, NYCP is facing our first shortfall in a decade.

We know how we'll move ahead in the coming months to stay financially sound. But without your renewed—and increased—support New York Common Pantry can't stay ready. Please use the envelope enclosed in this Pantry Press and make your own commitment to reducing hunger. Please do it today, so we'll be ready tomorrow. Otherwise the truly harsh reality may be that we are able to give less to New Yorkers who absolutely need and deserve more. ■



STEPHEN GRIMALDI, Executive Director of New York Common Pantry

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Grimaldi".

LET'S GROW TOGETHER



“As a company, we were extremely excited to partner with New York Common Pantry for a great cause. We understand the pressing need to help feed families challenged by food insecurity in New York City.”

— NICK ARMATA

OVER THE YEARS, New York Common Pantry has evolved as an organization, and our goals have grown from solely feeding individuals and families across New York City to providing healthy and sustainable options to the guests we serve. Providing guests with nutritious fruits and vegetables cannot be done without relationships with key vendors and product donors like E. Armata Fruit & Produce Inc., a family-run fruit and produce wholesaler located in the famous Hunts Point Market. “As a company, we were extremely excited to partner with New York Common Pantry for a great cause. We understand the pressing need to help feed families challenged by food insecurity in New York City,” says Nick Armata.

As a company, E. Armata not only understands the value of family but the importance of the community they serve. In our new relationship, E. Armata Fruit & Produce Inc. and New York Common Pantry work together to provide everyone access to healthy food, despite economic disadvantages. “We are happy our partnership allows us to address the issue of food insecurity in New York City, and to get involved with the communities we serve, but it also allows us to adopt a ‘Zero Waste’ Policy.”

Eric Mitchnick, Director, Specialty Division

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— ERIC MITCHNICK, DIRECTOR, SPECIALTY DIVISION



AN UNCOMMON SOLUTION TO HUNGER

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MEET JUDY SECON

Last August Judy Secon joined NYCP's leadership team as Senior Director of Programs & Operations. Judy brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the non-profit

sector to New York Common Pantry. She oversees the programs and services of NYCP, ensuring the quality in on-going operations, and works to elevate NYCP not only as a brand but as an organization with the

development of key strategic initiatives. Her past positions as Vice President at Phoenix House Foundation and Executive Director at Rye Youth Council has allowed Judy not only to be a real asset at NYCP but to share her insight on organizational development, budgeting and much more. "Working at New York Common Pantry has been one of

"Working at New York Common Pantry has been one of my most rewarding experiences."

my most rewarding experiences. In my position, I can interact both with our staff and guests on a daily basis, and see immediately the impact we have on people's lives. What we are doing here makes such a difference to New Yorkers in need, and I am proud of our ability to provide quality services that help on an individual level. When I stop to think about what our guests face on a daily basis, I realize how important it is to be part of the solution, in any way possible, and am grateful that New York Common Pantry has given me that opportunity." ■



TOP LEFT: (L-R) Shannon Tyree Brown, Benefit Co-Chair, Vice Chair of NYCP's Board; Annie Huneke, Chair of NYCP's Board; Margaret Sung, Benefit Co-Chair and member of NYCP's Board. Photo by Ilya S. Savenok/Getty Images.

TOP RIGHT: Susan Merrill, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP and member of NYCP Board accepting NYCP's 2019 Corporate Partner award on behalf of Sidley Austin LLP from Rene Jocelyn, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley. Photo by Marc Goldberg.



11th ANNUAL FILL THE BAG BENEFIT CELEBRATED AT ZIEGFELD BALLROOM

ON MARCH 5, 2019, New York Common Pantry hosted the 11th Annual Fill The Bag Benefit at the timeless Ziegfeld Ballroom. The evening's theme Community + Connection celebrated New York Common Pantry's strong ties to the city and the people it serves, promoting dignity, health, and self-sufficiency. Susan Merrill, a partner at Sidley Austin LLP, was presented NYCP's 2019 Corporate Partner award on behalf of her company by Rene Jocelyn, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley (last year's recipient of the award for Corporate Partner).

That evening, more than 300 guests filled the room and raised over \$800,000, to support NYCP's award-winning mission to help reduce hunger and provide dignity to New Yorkers in need. ■

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT... PLEASE MAKE A GIFT THIS SPRING!

To make a donation please visit nycommonpantry.org or use the mailer inside.



NYCommonPantry