Sometimes the biggest challenges bring out the best in all of us. 2019 was a time of challenge and adversity for many communities across New York City. With the cost of living rising at nearly three times the rate of wages, over 2.5 million working-age New Yorkers are struggling to provide necessities for their families.¹ 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 necessities. One in ten working New Yorkers is food insecure.² The harsh reality is that poverty has no face, and families struggling to make ends meet live in every neighborhood in New York City.

In Fiscal Year 2019 New York Common Pantry took significant strides to not only continue to feed New Yorkers, distributing over 6.4 million meals, but to implement sustainable partnerships that help stop food waste and developed innovative strategies to best help the individuals and families we serve.

We need your help to not only remain a resource for individuals and families across New York City, as the number of food insecure individuals grow from year to year, your support is a necessity to help us continue our mission and remain committed to the core values on which we were founded: to provide food, dignity and a fresh start to those who need our help.

¹ The Women’s Center for Education and Career Advancement. ² Ibid.

Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director

Elaine Clark, Board Chair
Lawshan Singleton and her son

Lawshan is a native New Yorker, an aspiring chef, and a working single mother. Lawshan came to New York Common Pantry four months ago for help to make ends meet. Given the cost of living in the City, feeding her family is no easy task. Getting grocery packages through the Choice Pantry enables her to use her hard earned income to maintain her home and clothe her children. In addition, New York Common Pantry has helped Lawshan access much needed federal benefits to help stabilize her household.

“New York Common Pantry has saved me and my children from being homeless.”
New York City has it all. Architecture, parks, culture, grit, art, beaches, 24/7 activities, diversity. It also has many challenges. For thousands of working New Yorkers, paychecks are not keeping pace with the increased cost of living. Over a million New Yorkers struggle with food insecurity — meaning they lack access to enough food. In the Bronx, the borough most affected by hunger, one in three children live in food insecure households and the number of employed adults living in food insecure households citywide has increased by 27% over the last decade.³

At the New York Common Pantry, our philosophy hasn’t wavered since 1980. Every day, we set an “Uncommon Table” with nutritious, healthy, culturally-appropriate food to combat food insecurity for New Yorkers in need. We work with our guests, volunteers, partners, and donors not only to offer fresh produce, groceries, and hot meals on a daily basis but also to provide valuable health and nutrition information, critical social services and access to benefits, and a vital sense of connection. Each of these is part of our “uncommon solution to hunger.” And each is critical.

Over the last few years, sustainability and food rescue have grown to become increasingly important components in our approach to feeding New Yorkers. Each year, 40 percent of food in the United States is wasted.⁴ In response we have built strategic partnerships with companies like Restaurant Associates, E. Armata, Inc., and DoorDash to rescue food that would otherwise rot in a landfill. Across our programs, we brought in 4.5 million pounds of donated and rescued food.

We ask you to join us. Share a meal, share a story, help a neighbor who may need it. A healthy, nutritious meal can make all the difference to someone — pull up a chair to our Uncommon Table.

³ Hunger Free America. ⁴ Natural Resources Defense Council.
Our Mission

New York Common Pantry reduces hunger and promotes dignity, health and self-sufficiency.

2019 Impact

With the cost of living rising in New York City at nearly three times the rate of wages, over 2.5 million working-age New Yorkers are struggling to provide basic necessities like food, clothing and housing for their families.5

In FY19 New York Common Pantry continued to focus on meeting the daily needs of New Yorkers by implementing programs and partnerships to ensure the individuals and families we serve have full access to the tools necessary to create and maintain healthy, balanced lives.

64,352 New Yorkers served in 533,769 visits

6,467,256 meals distributed

$8,986,865 accessed in resources

5 The Women’s Center for Education and Career Advancement.
New York Common Pantry’s “whole-person” approach provides New Yorkers in need with healthy food, including fresh vegetables and fruits through food rescue, wellness and nutrition education, and benefits access.

Healthy Food
Providing high-quality, healthy food is at the heart of what we do. Our pantry guests in East Harlem and the Bronx can select food items from five nutritional categories to create wholesome meals. Hot meals are served in East Harlem five days a week with brown bag meals supplementing on weekends and holidays.

Additionally we are committed to serving New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs.

Our trucks and vans delivered grocery packages to low-income seniors at 85 sites per month and we provided farm-fresh produce to families through local CSA (community supported agriculture) shares.

Food Rescue
We conduct food rescue through over 30 partnerships across New York City, including Restaurant Associates, the nation’s premier on-site dining management company, Hunts Point Market, and other wholesale and food retailers to rescue nutritious food that would otherwise go into a landfill. In FY19, we rescued over 650 thousand pounds of high quality food that we then included with pantry packages to members or used in our hot meals program.

Social Services
Our social services team works at our East Harlem and Bronx locations, as well as locations throughout various neighborhoods in New York City, to enroll pantry guests in case management, screening for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and SSI benefits, as well as housing and medical care services. We also offer direct services like haircuts, showers, laundry, and mail services. Other community services include nutrition education at community centers, community gardens, and farmer’s markets as well as tools for healthy and active living on a budget, smart shopping tips and basic cooking and safety skills.

The landscape of poverty and food security shifts daily in New York City. Many working New Yorkers cannot cover an emergency expense much less deal with the increased cost of living from year to year. Over the years, New York Common Pantry has evolved as an organization, and our goal has grown from solely feeding individuals and families in East Harlem to providing healthy and sustainable options for New Yorkers in neighborhoods all over the city.

In FY19, New York Common Pantry worked tirelessly to develop new methodologies and partnerships focused on changing the narrative of food insecurity. We improved the state of health for our guests by harvesting data from an advanced inventory control system to obtain a deeper understanding of the goods we purchased and that were donated to us in order to provide the most nutritious options available. Additionally, we invested more deeply in our food rescue partnerships to reduce food waste and take advantage of quality food resources that would have otherwise been lost to the trash. Finally, we continued to develop the deep relationships we have with our invaluable community of volunteers. Our partners and volunteers are an integral part of our day to day operations and are cornerstones of our long-term viability and sustainability.

A Whole-Person Approach.

A Sustainable Approach.
For every dollar spent on overhead expenses in FY19, NYCP accessed an average of $6.79 in resources for those we serve.

“Ileana Vargas, a Puerto Rican native, came to New York City during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. When she was diagnosed with cancer it became a struggle to make ends meet and look after health while undergoing treatment. She came to New York Common Pantry for assistance with food and access to benefits and has been a guest at our East Harlem location for over a year. The resources that New York Common Pantry has provided have made it easier for her to prioritize her health and well-being.”

Ileana Vargas, East Harlem Choice Pantry member
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, E. Armata not only understands the value of family but the importance of the community they serve. E. Armata Fruit & Produce Inc. and New York Common Pantry work together to provide everyone access to healthy food, despite economic disadvantages.

Nick Armata, Eric Mitchnick, & Michael Armata
E. Armata Fruit & Produce Inc.;
Food Rescue Partners

“We are happy that our partnership allows us to address food insecurity while adopting a zero waste policy.”

In FY19 NYCP supporters rescued 1.3 million lbs of quality food.
In FY19 NYCP supporters volunteered 81,045 hours serving our communities.

New York Common Pantry not only creates lasting bonds with the guests we serve but also between our volunteers and staff. Jose Gonzalez, a retired transit worker, and Georgina Hernandez, a home health aide, met while volunteering at New York Common Pantry. Quickly their budding friendship and love of helping others flourished into more than a friendship. Their unwavering commitment to assisting others created a meaningful connection, in the spring of 2019, the pair got engaged.

“New York Common Pantry inspired our love. We love New York Common Pantry; it is our second home. They help so many people — no matter who they are.”

Jose Gonzalez & Georgina Hernandez, New York Common Pantry volunteers
New York Common Pantry maintains strong financial oversight supporting best practices and ensuring accountability. We have robust fiscal policies and procedures detailing controls required for avoiding waste, fraud, and other risks. Our Measuring Impact and Success Policy ensures we have measurable goals and objectives in place to evaluate our success annually. In 2019 we met 90 percent of the year’s set goals.

**Net Assets: $5,854,704**

**Revenue: $12.5M**

Revenue by Type

- In-Kind: 39%
- Government: 30%
- Corporations & Foundations: 15%
- Individuals: 8%
- Events: 7%
- Other Sources: 1%

Includes sponsoring organizations, bequests, interest, and miscellaneous

**Expense: $12.9M**

Expense by Type

- Programs: 86%
- Management & General: 7%
- Fundraising: 7%

* This information shown here was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Audited financial statements are on file at New York Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029. A copy of the audited financial statement filed with the New York State Office of Charities Registration may be obtained on request from New York Common Pantry or at nycommonpantry.org.

**Maximizing resources:**

- Value of Food Rescued: $1,129,378
- Cost Per Choice Pantry Meal: $1.26
- Value of Volunteers: $2,445,938

24,179 volunteers contributed 81,045 hours altogether, representing the above amount in saved labor costs. **Based on NY State 2018 volunteer rates.
2019 Supporters

Whether you volunteer, arrange a food drive or food rescue, make a donation, or offer expertise you help ensure New York Common Pantry will be here for those in need. Thank you!
$1,000 – 4,999
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We express our heartfelt appreciation to the hundreds of donors who gave food, toys, and cash contributions in amounts less than $1,000 and regret that space limitations prevent our
In FY19 NYCP individual donors contributed $900,000 in support.

Margie Sung, Member of NYCP’s Board of Directors and long-time volunteer

Foundations and product donors are integral to achieving New York Common Pantry’s mission, but so are the individuals who help make it happen with their commitment and financial contributions to New York Common Pantry. Since joining the New York Common Pantry board of directors in 2014, Margie Sung has dedicated many of her resources and countless hours volunteering with her group “Margie’s Minions” to support the mission of New York Common Pantry.

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Zabar’s
Ana Villalobos has lived in New York for over 20 years, working different jobs to make ends meet. Now retired, and like many retired New Yorkers, Ana lives on a fixed income. She relies on New York Common Pantry to help supplement fresh produce and other nutritional items. In the past year, the food Ana received has made a big difference in her life.

“New York Common Pantry is a godsend. I don’t know what I’d do without them.”

Together, we can do so much more. You can help provide dignity and hope to New Yorkers in need.

Volunteer. Partner. Donate.
NYCommonPantry.org

All photos by Patrick Kolts. Annual report art direction and design by Petting Zoo Inc.

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