FILL THE BAG: 9TH ANNUAL
BENEFIT FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND
ENTHUSIASM

THIS YEAR’S Fill The Bag event, held on Wednesday, March 8th, 2017, honored Candice K. Frawley with The Estee Lauder Companies Distinguished Volunteer Award for her many years of volunteering. Board service and support. Over 300 friends of NYCP filled Gotham Hall for the festivities.

The evening’s co-chairs were Shannon Tyree Brown and Margaret Sung; the Honorary Chair was Sherrell Andreess, and the Corporate Chair was Walter Smith, of ING. Dinner Chairs included Shannon and Seamus Brown, Debra and Thad Dasis, Candice and John Frawley, Annie and Ben Hunkele, Claudia and Stephen Jury, Doreen S. Morales, Ruth Horowitz and Michael Nachman, DiBi and Oscar Schafer, Margaret Sung and Michael Schmidberger, and Wendy A. Stein and Bart Friedman.

The event theme, “An Uncommon Effort Toward a Common Goal,” was highlighted in the remarks made by our dynamic Mistress of Ceremonies, NY News Anchor Cheryl Wills, and all of the speakers. The theme was also woven throughout the Community Spotlight, which featured inspiring stories told by staff, guests, funders, and community partners. Jennifer Wright of Christie’s added NYCP to her list of beneficiaries and is now a participant in our Planned Giving program. “A lot of it gives me peace of mind. I’ve always wanted to give back.” If you would like to learn more about estate planning or other Planned Giving options, please contact Sarah Moran at (917) 720-9732.

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

THIS SPRING, New York Common Pantry is opening a new satellite location in collaboration with the Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc. (CIA), located at 1290 Hoe Avenue in the Bronx, this new facility offers the same high quality programs NYCP offers at its East Harlem headquarters. Services include Help 365 case management to secure economic resources, healthy food through Choice Pantry, and Live Healthy! nutrition education. Together, these make up NYCP’s Whole Person Approach to counteracting the effects of poverty. Food donations through partners including City Harvest and Food Bank for New York City will also carry over to new site operations.

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has generously provided lead funding for this expansion. Other key support came from Michael A. Nachman, Vice Chair of the NYCP Board of Directors. The welcome area of the new center has been named in his honor. Supporters from the local community include the New Yankee Stadium Community Fund as well as the Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc., which has provided 10 years of free rent.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT... PLEASE MAKE A GIFT THIS SPRING! To make a donation please visit nycommonpantry.org or use the mailer inside.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S CORNER:  WE STEP UP

The recently released Federal budget proposal is full of cuts to certain programs that greatly impact those we serve at New York Common Pantry, and we know we are in for some difficult times ahead. For example, according to the New York State Department of Health, the proposed American Care Act recently voted down would have most greatly impacted poor and elderly New Yorkers. An estimated 2.7 million New Yorkers, of whom almost 60% are residents of New York City, would have lost healthcare coverage if the repeal of the Affordable Care Act was enacted.

We remain committed to serving every person who walks through our doors at New York Common Pantry. We will turn no one away and make sure everyone is given a fighting chance to succeed, to have adequate resources so they can have proper nutrition, pay their bills and send their children to school ready to learn. We know you care, and are here to remind you that we will continue to do these things, no matter how hard the times are ahead. Put simply: We will step up.

We recognize there will be continued deliberation and compromise as elected representatives establish their response and priorities. The proposed cuts, if enacted, will decimate an already frayed social safety net. Even today, that net does not adequately address the needs of New Yorkers, including working families and immigrants. Such support can include food from pantries and soup kitchens, resources like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and critical housing subsidies or vouchers funded by states through the Community Development Block Grant. Proposed cuts to these programs will exacerbate the needs of millions of New Yorkers. According to a study by University of Washington, the hourly wage needed to support a family with one parent and one preschooler in New York City was between $25.37 and $39.15 an hour in 2014. It is likely this has gone up in the three intervening years, even after recent wage increases in New York City to $12.00 an hour for Fast Food Workers, and $11.00 for other industries.

This gap is impossible to make up without some sort of other help or assistance. Further cuts to SNAP benefits, which recipients often spend in three weeks or less of each month, will only cause more poverty, poor nutrition, and exacerbate health conditions for those living on low incomes. In fact, a study published in the journal of Health Affairs in 2014 documented that poor people with diabetes were 27% more likely to go to the hospital for dangerously low blood sugar, a condition known as hypoglycemia, at the end of the month when supplemental income runs dry and food budgets are tight. Researchers found no increase in such hospitalizations among higher-income people. Proposals to cut SNAP benefits, which recipients often spend in three weeks or less of each month, will only cause more poverty, poor nutrition, and exacerbate health conditions for those living on low incomes. In fact, a study published in the journal of Health Affairs in 2014 documented that poor people with diabetes were 27% more likely to go to the hospital for dangerously low blood sugar, a condition known as hypoglycemia, at the end of the month when supplemental income runs dry and food budgets are tight. Researchers found no increase in such hospitalizations among higher-income people.

Cuts to SNAP benefits are also linked in the research to increased use of emergency rooms and services for urgent care. This is concerning, but even more so if the Affordable Care Act is replaced by something resembling the legislation referred to above that was recently proposed and ultimately pulled by Congress. In fact, some politicians voiced displeasure that the bill had not gone far enough.

During these challenging times we know those we serve will struggle to make ends meet, get the coverage they need and deserve, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. At New York Common Pantry we will continue to support fair and just policies, and serve those in need. We will step up. Thank you for helping us do so.