



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENEFIT

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FILL THE BAG BENEFIT CELEBRATED AT ZIEGFELD BALLROOM

ON MARCH 1, 2018, NYCP and almost 400 supporters celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Fill The Bag benefit at the brand new Ziegfeld Ballroom. The Spence School was honored with the Estée Lauder Companies distinguished Volunteer Award and Morgan Stanley was honored with the Corporate Partner award.

The event theme, "Planting Deeper Roots," focused on the expansion of NYCP's programming and services. NY1 News Anchor Cheryl Wills returned as the charismatic Mistress of Ceremonies. Special guests included Deputy Bronx Borough President Marricka Scott-McFadden, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Governor Andrew Cuomo's representative, Jonathan Estreich, Esq., and TV journalist Willie Geist and his wife Christina Geist. Ruth Mauldin of Christie's led the lively, record-breaking Paddle Raise and Hellman & Friedman generously sponsored the Silent Auction. The evening raised over \$915,000—more than \$200,000 above last year's total—to support NYCP's award-winning programs. ■

TOP LEFT: The iconic Ziegfeld marquee. March 1, 2018.

TOP RIGHT, LEFT TO RIGHT: Shannon Tyree Brown, Co-Chair of NYCP's Fill The Bag Benefit, and member of NYCP's Board of Directors; Danielle Passno accepted NYCP's 2018 Esteé Lauder Companies Distinguished Volunteer Award on behalf of the Spence School where she is Director of Outreach and Public Purpose; Mandell Crawley accepted NYCP's 2018 Corporate Partner Award on behalf of Morgan Stanley where he is Head of Private Wealth Management; Margaret Sung, Co-Chair of NYCP's Fill The Bag Benefit and member of NYCP's Board of Directors.

ABOVE: TV Journalist Willie Geist and Mistress of Ceremonies Cheryl Wills of NY1.

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

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The Pantry Press

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ELIJAH SMITH is a 17 year-old volunteer at New York Common Pantry (NYCP). A student at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, he's taking some time off this semester to study in New York City and volunteer. He learned about NYCP during a volunteer opportunity with the Oliver Scholars program.

Elijah volunteers for NYCP programs in the Bronx and Manhattan, and especially enjoys being a Nourish program volunteer. "It's hard to choose one thing I like the best. The hours are flexible and there are really great people working here. You feel like you're accomplishing a lot of good by keeping so many people from being hungry and I really like seeing the seniors smile when they get their food."

Nourish—a Commodity Supplemental Food Program funded by the USDA and the NYS Department of Health—provides free supplemental groceries to over 13,000 low-income senior citizens each month. Food is distributed at partner agencies in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. Nourish volunteers—capable of packing and distributing groceries—are always needed. Please contact Stacy Gonzalez, Volunteer Associate, at sgonzalez@nyccommonpantry.org to sign up. ■

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

STEPPING UP WITH A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN



STEPHEN CRIMALDI, Executive Director of New York Common Pantry

In 1980, our founding group of faith-based organizations joined together for the common purpose of reducing hunger in New York City. They envisioned "putting themselves out of business" by providing enough emergency food to meet the community's need. That first year, the Yorkville Common Pantry served 30 families from the basement of Holy Trinity Church. For nearly 40 years we have steadily grown and innovated, stepping up to meet the needs of the broader New York City community. Last year, New York Common Pantry served 6 million meals—over 5 million pounds of food—to nearly 500,000 New Yorkers in 4 boroughs and lower Westchester County.

Our last strategic plan—launched in 2012—was instrumental in guiding the growth of the programs and services we have been able to deliver. Not only did it allow us to serve more individuals and families, it helped us to pinpoint the most urgent unmet need in the city. As a result, we built Choice Pantry Bronx. As we celebrate a year of operations at this new location—and the volunteer service that has helped us grow—we reflect on the past and look ahead to the future.

As we begin laying the groundwork for our new strategic plan, we face new challenges. Many of the funding sources and structures put in place to protect the most vulnerable among us—single parents, senior citizens, homeless individuals—are in danger. We know cuts to SNAP and other Federal food aid will be threatened—at least through 2020—and we continue to call upon our supporters to help us preempt a surge in need.

McKinsey & Company is once again providing NYCP with pro bono strategic planning support. Their expertise has guided the launch of the planning process, beginning with our Board of Directors in January. The next phase is an internal and external stakeholder survey that will gather insights and feedback from the Board, Advisory Council, Junior Board, staff, volunteers, and program participants. We expect to complete the planning process in late spring.

For nearly four decades, NYCP has been dedicated to reducing hunger in NYC while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. Together, we will continue to step up for New Yorkers in need. Thank you for your support and investment in our work. ■

NYCP WELCOMES CAROLYN HAMRAK, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

LAST SUMMER CAROLYN HAMRAK joined NYCP's leadership team as Senior Director of Finance. This new role was created to strengthen internal finance and human resources systems and procedures. Before joining the team at NYCP, Carolyn was the Senior Financial Manager for The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Education Department. She managed the budget, gifts, grants, endowments, and all areas of finance. Previously, Carolyn was the Director of Budget Operations at The New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and Senior Financial Analyst at The Metropolitan Opera. She began her financial career as a Corporate Analyst for a commercial property management real estate firm and held analyst roles at Bankers Trust and JP Morgan.

Describing her transition into the new role at NYCP, Carolyn says, "In the past I have worked for some very large organizations with a lot of resources. What New York Common Pantry is able to produce with less is incredibly robust. I'm grateful to be able to put my expertise to use here because the human element really hits home. My parents were immigrants to New York City and they depended on community support. When I come to work and see people on the food line, I'm really happy that we are that community. We touch so many people's lives through our multi-faceted programs. I'm thrilled to be a part of this amazing work and inspired by the the smart, passionate, and dedicated staff that makes it happen." ■



CAROLYN HAMRAK,
NYCP Senior Director of Finance

Together, we will continue to step up for New Yorkers in need.



GUEST STORY: LESTER GUNN

Lester Gunn gets groceries from New York Common Pantry and comes in for breakfast every weekday morning and for dinner three nights a week. He says, "I've made a lot of friends here. They tell me, "don't worry Pops, we're looking out for you."

Mr. Gunn—who is 84 years old—shared, "I've done a lot in my life. I grew up in Harlem and went out on my own at 15. I played pro baseball in the Cleveland Indians farm system in the 1950s. I was a professional actor, singer and dancer for a decade, and then spent forty years working as a machinist. Everything came to me—and then it left."

He says the food NYCP provides is very good and the environment is warm and welcoming. "The staff is always very polite and congenial. Their hearts are big! People are looking for respect and you get that at the Pantry. It keeps me going." ■



GIVING GETS CREATIVE IN PAST YEAR

IN THE PAST YEAR New York Common Pantry (NYCP) has received new support from diverse and creative sources. Last spring, Wyndy Sloan launched ShortStems, a floral company that donates food to NYCP and upcycles the cans into unique designs. For their wedding last summer, Rachel Ingram and Mitchel Kay made a donation to NYCP in lieu of wedding favors. In the fall, four year old Belle Henry arrived at NYCP with food she collected via her own food drive. During the holidays, Whole Foods conducted a register campaign for NYCP at its Harlem, Upper East Side, Upper West Side, and Midtown East stores. In early March, Carmine's restaurant donated 'National Meatball Day' proceeds from its Upper West Side and Times Square locations to NYCP. As of this spring, Music for Food—a nonprofit organization comprised of classical musicians—has donated the proceeds of two concerts to NYCP. We thank these generous supporters and so many others for helping us to reach more New Yorkers in need! ■



TOP LEFT: Lester Gunn, NYCP Guest

TOP RIGHT: Belle Henry's food drive

INSET: Upcycled design by ShortStems