

## YORKVILLE COMMON PANTRY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This, the twenty-fifth anniversary year of Yorkville Common Pantry, has been one of the most eventful in its history. Major changes have taken place, not least, a change in leadership as Carolann Johns was welcomed as Executive Director.

At our beginning in 1981, in the basement of The Church of the Holy Trinity, we served 50 needy families with groceries. Twenty-five years later, responding to the continuing need for emergency food, we provide groceries and other services to over 700 families, a total of 22,950 meals per week – and have now outgrown our current facilities.



The long anticipated renovation of YCP's facilities started this year, entailing relocation of programs and support staff to three different sites. Happily, we are able to report that all programs are running smoothly with minimal disruption in the temporary spaces.

Through all these years with all the growth and change, it's comforting to know that the heart of YCP remains constant. This annual report is a celebration of the milestones that we have achieved as we provided much needed services to thousands of people in New York City. According to a joint report released by City Harvest and the Food Bank for New York City, there are 1.6 million New Yorkers currently living in poverty.

Twenty-five years on, YCP remains committed to ensuring that individuals and families do not go hungry and that they have access to services to help them gain self-sufficiency.

Thank you for joining us along the way, and for celebrating with us the milestones that we continue to achieve with your support.

Warm regards,

*Linda E. Holt*

Linda Holt  
CHAIR

*Carolann Johns*

Carolann Johns  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) is dedicated to reducing hunger and promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. Our services are provided in the Upper East Side and East Harlem to our neighbors in and around these communities.

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## The First 25 Years

YCP was founded in 1981 by a group of dedicated volunteers from Yorkville churches and synagogues who started distributing cans of food to elderly people in a small room in the basement of The Church of the Holy Trinity on East 88th Street and First Avenue. In 1982, YCP became the City's first non-profit agency to provide hot dinners, in a public school location, three nights a week in Yorkville. That same year, YCP moved its operations to the recreational building adjoining The Church of St. Edward the Martyr in East Harlem at 109th Street and 5th Avenue.

Today, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings each week, more than 700 families receive bags of groceries, enough to feed each member of a family three meals a day for three days. That amounts to one million meals a year to thousands of New Yorkers who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or struggling to make ends meet.

Perhaps the most innovative new program initiated by YCP since its beginning is 24/7 YCP. Opened in February, 2003, and open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, 24/7 YCP is available to any resident of New York City who is unable to obtain emergency food. Each person receives a three-day supply of food for each family member. 24/7 YCP provided 7,000 meals the first year, 100,000 the second year and 134,000 last year!

**then 1981 and  
now  
2006:**

**1981:** 1 small room in the basement of The Church of the Holy Trinity on East 88th Street

**2006:** 11,476 sq. feet in a newly renovated facility at 8 East 109th Street

**1981:** 1 pantry program

**2006:** 3 pantry programs and 2 meal programs

**1981:** 50 families received groceries per week

**2006:** over 700 families receive groceries per week for a total of 22,950 meals

**1981:** \$55,000 annual budget

**2006:** \$2,880,349 annual budget

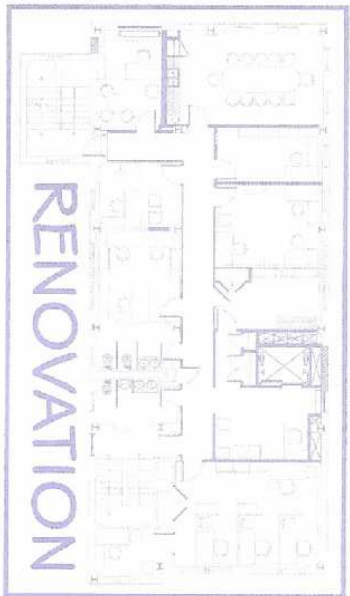
**1981:** 2 full-time staff members

**2006:** 16 full-time and 5 part-time staff members

**1981:** 20 volunteers weekly

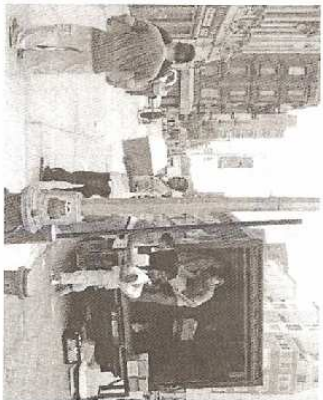
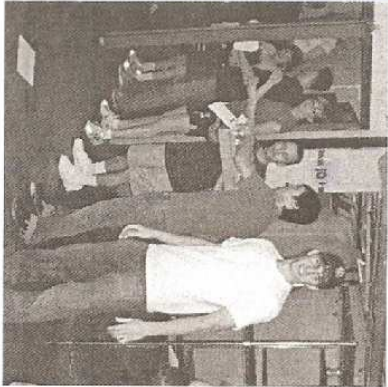
**2006:** 700 volunteer hours weekly

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## Why we needed renovation

The current facilities at 8 East 109th Street are inadequate to serve the ever growing need for our services. There is no access for handicapped or elderly people, or any interior waiting space, especially difficult for our clients in the heat of summer and chill of winter. The kitchen facilities are inadequate for the number of meals we serve, and there is insufficient cold storage and dry storage to handle large food donations. In addition, the building infrastructure is deteriorating, with an antiquated electrical system and periodic flooding due to faulty drainage.



Moving Day, May 2006 when over 140 volunteers pitched in to help.

## Robin Hood to the Rescue

At the 2004 Spring gala for the Robin Hood Foundation, bidders were given the opportunity to help one of the Robin Hood grant recipients improve facilities and services. Impressed by its success in running emergency food programs, YCP was honored as the recipient of the "Be Robin Hood" auction package. Four donors matched each other's bids of \$800,000 to raise an amazing total of \$3.2 million for YCP!

## Interim Locations

By the end of May 2006, the 109th Street facility was vacated so that contractors could begin their work. Administrative offices are now located next door in a second floor space above the Sanctuary of The Church of St. Edward the Martyr.

Pantry programs, case management and 24/7 YCP are temporarily located at 1429 Fifth Avenue at 117th Street. Meal programs are relocated to the Church of the Good Neighbor on 106th Street.

## Our future home

When we move back in, sometime in the Spring of 2007, our East 109th Street building will have been upgraded to be a safe and more efficient space. There will be a generous indoor waiting space and handicapped and elderly clients will have access via a ramp and an elevator. Space will be divided so more than one program can be run at the same time. We will be able to meet the growing demand for our services with increased comfort and dignity, as well as efficiency.



# YCP PROGRAMS



## MARIA'S KITCHEN

Twice a month case manager Maria Bokht holds nutritional education and cooking classes for Pantry families. Participants learn how to prepare a healthy recipe and leave with extra ingredients to fix that recipe at home. The workshop is always filled to capacity and positively impacts the lives of participating Pantry clients.

## CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

The CAB was formed in 2004 through a grant in collaboration with NYC Coalition Against Hunger. Included in the grant was the use of social work interns from Hunter College to coordinate the development of the CAB. The CAB members provide YCP feedback from our clients, allowing clients and staff to act in partnership with the surrounding community. They have implemented a Client Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, as well as publishing a quarterly newsletter. CAB was most helpful in moving to our interim locations.

## PANTRY PROGRAM

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning, volunteers gather to assemble bags of groceries containing a variety of perishable and non-perishable items – enough food to feed a family three nutritionally-balanced meals a day for three days. These bags are then distributed to over 700 families. Our Saturday program is unique in that it is able to serve the working poor and those participating in education or training programs during the week. A Friday distribution was added this year for the elderly and disabled.

Many of our clients are also helped to obtain needed services and entitlements by two dedicated case managers. They receive counseling on issues such as employment, housing, education, mental health, domestic violence and medical or childcare needs. YCP also offers educational workshops on topics ranging from Medicare to Food Stamps and invites other organizations to set up counseling tables on Pantry days, consulting with our clients on topics such as tax assistance and health care. Through this supportive counseling, individuals are able to manage change and move in a positive direction.

With the recent implementation of a bar-coded Pantry Membership Card, we are able to automate data collection and thus better document and meet client need, as well as speed up food distribution.



## 2417 YCP

In February 2003, 2417 YCP opened its doors and has not closed them since, even during holidays, blizzards, or the city-wide power outage in 2003! Hours that had to be restricted during the renovation will resume in Spring 2007.

This unique, one-time emergency food assistance program, open around the clock, is designed to meet the acute hunger needs of families and individuals throughout New York City who are unable to access emergency food because other food pantries are either closed or out of food. They may be referred by one of over 400 agencies citywide or by word-of-mouth, our strongest referral tool.

Each person who comes to 2417 YCP receives a grocery bag containing a three day supply of food for each family member, as well as ready-to-eat brown bag meals for immediate consumption. Half of the households that receive 2417 YCP emergency services are then referred to either the YCP Thursday, Friday or Saturday Pantry programs for ongoing supplemental food service. Others may be referred to a community pantry in their own neighborhood.

Annual operating costs for this program are over \$300,000 and continue to grow as our outreach efforts expand program participation throughout the five boroughs.

## PROJECT DIGNITY

Breakfast is served Monday through Friday for 150 individuals. Dinner is provided on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. Our cooks prepare the meals with nutritious, wholesome ingredients. Volunteers who serve the meals are some of our most dedicated and several of the community members who attend the meals also end up volunteering. Case managers are available to provide counseling and referral services. During renovation of our facilities, the overnight shelter for 12 men has been temporarily discontinued.



## Who comes to 2417 YCP in the middle of the night?

There are many reasons for people to be hungry in the middle of the night. Some are working several jobs and cannot come during the day. Some are homeless families who are often not placed in a shelter until late at night. Some are homeless who need our "brown bags" to sustain them until the morning. No matter the reason, 2417 YCP is always open and able to respond to emergency situations with care and concern.

# VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers joined together to create the Pantry. This small group of dedicated people has since evolved into hundreds of volunteer groups and individuals contributing their talent and time towards the goal of reducing hunger in our community.

## HELENE ABRAHAM AWARD 2006 TO NEW YORK CARES

Each year, New York Cares brings vital volunteer support to over 850 diverse non-profit agencies, public schools and other deserving organizations throughout the five boroughs. The program staff works with each organization to identify its most pressing needs, create projects where volunteers can make meaningful contributions and then recruit and deploy teams of volunteers to help meet their needs. Last year, New York Cares enrolled more than 30,000 New Yorkers to bring their time and talents to help serve our community.

Since 1997, New York Cares has regularly taken part in YCP's programs. From tutoring our youngest members to sorting, packing and distributing groceries, New York Cares volunteers have embraced the YCP community. They are an invaluable asset to our family and we are honored to present them with the Helene Abraham Volunteer Community Service Award for 2006.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and YCP clients, we thank New York Cares for all they do and look forward to many more years of partnership.



## JUNIOR COMMITTEE

The newly-formed YCP Junior Committee was proud to host its first "get together". There were over 100 guests in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time! Guest bartenders included Andrew Holt and Claire O'Neill and door prizes were raffled off to certain lucky guests. Our Committee has grown since the event and we look forward to our next event in the coming months. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. We would like to send a special thanks to Linda and everyone on the Committee for all their hard work. The Pantry is grateful for all that you do.

Antonia Abraham, Board Member



## How Can You Volunteer at the Pantry?

The diversity of volunteers is inspiring. The individuals and groups that founded the Pantry have evolved into hundreds of volunteer groups and individuals contributing their talents and time toward the goal of reducing hunger in our community.

Please contact Gladys Ortiz, Volunteer Coordinator, at 212.410.2264, ext 110 if you would like to become part of this unique experience in our community.



At first, I began volunteering at the Yorkville Common Pantry to fulfill a community service requirement for my school. But after the first few times I went I realized how much I enjoyed going. After I finished my required hours, I kept volunteering for the Friday night dinners. I love going to see the people's faces light up while they were being served. One could always simply provide a donation but it is so much more gratifying to interact so closely with people you are helping.

Talal Rojja, Collegiate School



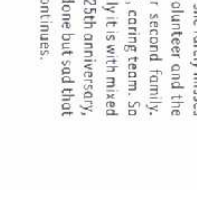
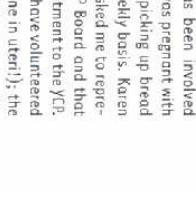
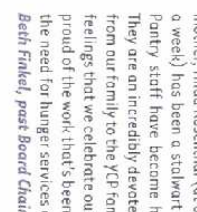
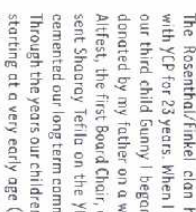
# YORKVILLE COMMON PANTRY

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS



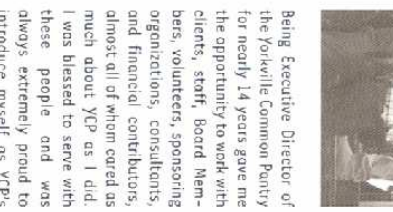
I came to YCP in 1986 as "information referral specialist" with offices in the basement of the Church of the Holy Trinity. Most clients were seniors who needed public assistance mailings and additional information about detox and rehabilitation programs. We had a Soup Kitchen serving 80-120 people, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 91st & First in the Eleanor Roosevelt School. The biggest difference I've noticed over the years is that there is a need for our service, clients are younger, there are more children, and the quality of food is more nutritional. I am looking forward to being all under one roof.

*Michael Fields, current Breakfast Chef*



As a hospital social worker in the 1970's, I often referred parents to Search and Care, the agency where the seeds of the present Pantry were sown. What began there, as a shelf of donated cans of food — a temporary stop-gap in the fight against hunger, became the Yorkville Common Pantry. In the 1980's I was appointed the Board representative from St. Jean Baptiste Church, one of the sponsoring organizations. I became a YCP Board member and volunteered on Thursdays. My association has continued since as a Board member, serving on Program and Personnel committees. With arthritic knees, I have been assured that after the renovation there will be sedentary volunteer opportunities. Being part of the Pantry family has been truly rewarding: interaction with the clients and their children, Board members, fellowship with St. Jean Baptiste parishioners who enthusiastically support YCP with monthly food drives, children processing down the aisle at Sunday Mass with their food donations, individual parishioners sending checks, turkey drives for Thanksgiving, as well as monthly meetings in our church's bulletin and journal.

*Patricia Kelly, Board Member since 1982*



## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS



Our 19 religious sponsoring organizations not only provide volunteers, Board Members, funds, food and other donations, but further infuse our work with profound meaning and reward. We consider these organizations to be caring members of the extended YCP family, and consider ourselves very fortunate to have their dedication and involvement.

The Brick Presbyterian Church • The Church of St. Edward the Martyr • The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola • The Church of the Heavenly Rest • The Church of the Holy Trinity • Modis Avenue Presbyterian Church • Park Avenue Unitarian Church • Park Avenue United Methodist Church • Park Avenue Synagogue • St. James' Church • St. Jean Baptiste Church • St. Joseph Yorkville • St. Stephen of Hungary • St. Thomas More Catholic Church • St. Vincent Ferrer Church • Temple Emanuel-El • Temple Israel of the City of New York • Temple Shaaray Tefillo • The Unitarian Church of All Souls •

My road to the YCP Board started on a stormy winter night in 1994 when Park Avenue Synagogue's Community Outreach Committee was meeting to discuss a request from YCP to become a sponsoring organization and designate a member to be on the YCP Board. Because of the blizzard, only four members attended and I heard myself saying "I will be pleased to accept this responsibility." Next, I was invited to the Board Meeting where I was warmly welcomed by then Chair Ronnie Stubbs. A few months later, I was asked to chair the annual Spring Benefit. Ever since that wintry February night, it has been a privilege and pleasure to be in association with this vital and dynamic organization.

*Lita Sobin, Park Avenue Synagogue Representative to the YCP Board*

## How do those in need find out about the Pantry?

Most commonly, clients are referred to the Pantry by a neighbor or friend. Along with this informal "word-of-mouth" referral, we are always publicizing our programs to community-based agencies, religious institutions, hospitals and related settings where people in need of assistance might learn about us.

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For the past thirty years, I have enjoyed living in New York City, one of the greatest cities in the world. I am grateful to YCP for allowing me to serve my fellow New Yorkers, less fortunate than I. I have encouraged my family and friends to join me in continuing the effort to change the lives of our neighbors and it is with pride they have shared my enthusiasm.

*Laura Weisberg, Board Member since 1991, from Temple Emanuel-El*

## SCHOOLS' ACTIVITIES

Throughout the years we have built relationships with nearby schools that continue to strengthen and expand the YCP family. Community service interns support our efforts and educate their peers about poverty and hunger. Groups from various schools organize food drives, or donate toys, Easter baskets, books and clothing for YCP families. Their commitment is always inspiring and tremendously appreciated.

Abraham Joshua Heschel School • Abraham Lincoln School • Alexander Robertson School • All Souls School • Allen-Stevenson School • Ark Nursery School • Bank Street College of Education • Belmont Academy High School • Bronx International High School • Bushwick High School • Central Synagogue May Family Nursery School • Children's All Day School • Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School • Columbia University • Convent of the Sacred Heart • Cristo Rey New York High School • De La Salle Academy • Eleanor Roosevelt High School • Epiphany Community Nursery School • Epiphany School • Fieldston School • Hunter College • Hunter College High School • Iona College • Junior High School 13/Spine 4 Program • Junior High School 54 • Life Science High School • Lycée François de New York • Mandel Nursery School • Manhattan Country School • Martin Luther King Jr. High School • Mc Carrel-Holy Rosary School • New York University • Orangeville District School • P.S. 146 • P.S. 158 • P.S. 290 • P.S. 67/Spennville Program • P.S. 6 • Park Avenue Christian Church Day School • Philosophy Day School • Ramaz School • Regis High School • Resurrection Episcopal Day School • Resurrection School • Riverside Country School • Rudolf Steiner School • Seton Day Care Center • Solomon Heschel • St. Bernard's School • St. Ignatius Loyola School • St. Joseph's School • St. Stephen of Hungary School • St. Thomas More Playgroup • Stephen Gaynor School • Temple Emanuel-El Nursery School • Temple Israel's Early Childhood Learning Center • The Birch Wathen Lenox School • The Brearley School • The Brick Church School • The Browning School • The Buckley School • The Cadenham School • The Calhoun School • The Cathedral School • The Chapin School • The Children's Streetfront School • The Collegiate School • The Dalton School • The Dwight School • The East Harlem School at Exodus House • The Family School • The Family School West • The Gateway School of New York • The Gillen Brewer School • The Hewitt School • The International Preschool • The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Day School • The Madison Playgroup • The Nightingale-Bamford School • The Spencer School • The Town School • The William Woodward, Jr. Nursery School • Trevor Day School • Trinity School • West Virginia University • York Avenue Preschool



**Joaquin Morante's students at P.S. 102 with mock-up check for \$1000 presented to YCP.**



**EIGHTH GRADE DANCE**  
to benefit YCP's Community Pantry

## JUNIOR DANCES

YCP joins four other neighborhood charities to sponsor a 6th, 7th and 8th grade dance during the school year. These events are enthusiastically attended and at the same time contribute a significant amount to YCP's funding. Parent chaperones, as well as students, come to know about the Pantry and have fun, too.

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# GRANTS AND GIFTS

With the generous support of all our donors, regardless of the dollar amounts, YCP has continued to reduce hunger and provide needed support for thousands of low-income New Yorkers. We are committed to continuing to provide efficient and effective services and it is with great sincerity that we thank you for sharing in our mission.

## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE ROBIN HOOD FOUNDATION

## YCP DONORS

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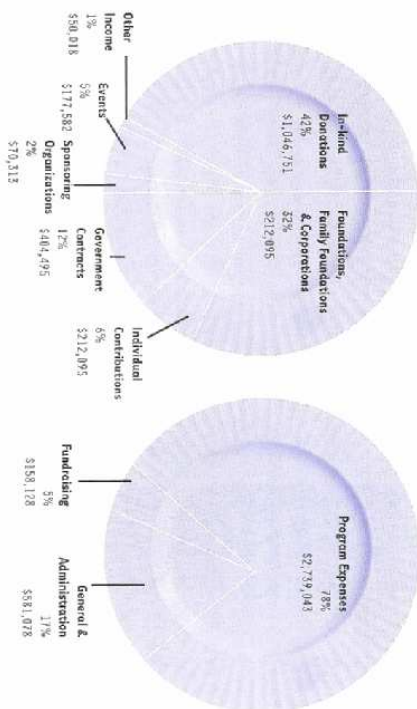
## HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO YCP

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that YCP is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is a publicly-supported charity under Section 509(c)(1). YCP therefore qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction allowed to individual donors. If you would like to discuss will bequests or other planned giving techniques, in order to provide YCP with a more stable long-term financial base, please contact Executive Director Carolann Johns at 212.410.2264, extension 115 or cjohns@ycp.org.

# YCP FINANCIAL SUMMARY – fiscal year July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

**Income**  
\$3,343,802

**Expenses**  
\$3,478,249



**YCP's Total Net Assets for fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 are \$4,325,635.**

The above information was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. Audited financial statements are on file at Yorkville Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10027-3402. A copy of the annual report filed with the New York State Office of Charities Registration may be obtained on request from Yorkville Common Pantry.



## Our Affiliates in the Anti-Hunger Community

The teamwork and collaborative effort of the East Side Homeless Network, Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and Lenox Hill Neighborhood House are key to YCP's programs. Support from the Partnership for the Homeless assists us in operating our Project Dignity Men's Shelter.

Also, YCP provides weekly food packages to needy families at Ronald McDonald house.

**We are tremendously grateful for food donations from City Harvest and the Food Bank for New York City. We simply could not operate without them.**

## CREDITS

**In-House**  
 Jenny Gerard Brown  
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 Lucy Van I. Boze  
 Hilary Hart Brown  
 Cheryl Bundy  
 Willie R. Carter  
 Helen Chapman  
 Christine Darnell  
 Didi Fenton-Schaffer  
 Candice K. Flawley  
 Edward Gallagher  
 Barbara A. Gooss  
 Elizabeth Jane Green  
 Katherine Grinfeld  
 Drucilla Hoskin  
 Jamie Hirsch  
 Stuart Johnson  
 Patricia Kelly  
 Susan Kessler  
 Suzanne Kitz  
 Miriam Klinger  
 Carol Ann Mercer  
 Doreen S. Morales  
 Dolores Morrissey  
 Michael Nochan  
 Kathy L. Nijmewijlo  
 Rebecca Robertson  
 Lite Sobin  
 Wendy Gartner Solis  
 Malory Spain  
 Veronica Mallory Stubbs  
 Elaine Weiss  
 Laura Weissberg  
 David Wengrod  
 Roland Woodland  
 Carolann Johns | Executive Director

## About the Board: There are 45 members of the YCP Board of Directors, each of whom is either an at-large member or a member representing 19 sponsoring churches and synagogues. Many started as, and remain active as, volunteers in YCP's programs. Each Board member commits time to serving on at least one of the active committees, such as Building Renovation, Capital Campaign, Finance, Program or Volunteers.

Several Board members have been invaluable in enduring renovation of our facilities. At the same time, the Board has undertaken a long range planning process for the first time in ten years.

## About the YCP Staff: We thank each and every YCP staff member for their caring and commitment. We could never operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and serve 1.25 million meals without our phenomenal team!

Since 1980 our staff has grown to a diverse team of 21, with 16 full-time and 5 part-time employees. Several of our staff are former YCP clients and volunteers, and we especially commend their successful efforts.



**YCP Employees: listed alphabetically because not all were available for this photograph.** Maria Bahrt, Reginald Barnes, Allan Brown, Carmelo Capo, Sheila Corrales, Michael Fields, Ronald Francis, Wendel Franks, Lee Gardner, Shari James, Carolann Johns, Rowan Mack, Juan Mendez, Gladys Ortiz, Anthony Perti, Lee Pitts, Daniel Reyes, Tommy Robinson, Nydia Rodriguez, Yolanda Singleton, Marion Williams.



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