

**“What YCP is doing is truly amazing. It was incredibly rewarding to work in an environment where you understood the near-term impact you were having on so many families. I wish there were more organizations like YCP out there.”**

*- David Saar, Volunteer from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

# Yorkville Common Pantry

2011 Annual Report

## MISSION STATEMENT

Yorkville Common Pantry is dedicated to reducing hunger while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. YCP champions the cause of the hungry through food pantry and meal distribution programs, nutrition education, basic hygiene services, homeless support, and related services. YCP's community-based programs focus on East Harlem and other underserved communities throughout New York City.

YCP is grateful for our ongoing relationship with our 19 sponsoring organizations that 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 feel very fortunate to have their dedication and involvement.



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### SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

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St. Vincent Ferrer Church  
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Temple Israel of the City of New York  
Temple Shaaray Tefila  
The Unitarian Church of All Souls

# It's Not Just Food

## **YCP changes lives.**

Our clients come for free food, but leave with much more.

They may enjoy a hot shower or discover they qualify for income assistance or learn about the nutrition in a fresh cabbage or access legal advice. Our staff works tirelessly serving clients with dignity and find their own lives illuminated with purpose. Our volunteers experience meaningful direct work and the joy of giving. Together we are all changed.



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Children deserve better. Perhaps the most significant and heartbreaking indicator of the economic downturn and ongoing struggle is the rise in children needing YCP's services. Our social service and pantry programs saw a combined increase of almost 1,000 new children coming to YCP during the year. Families enrolled in record numbers to learn how to stretch their food dollars in our nutrition education program. More children than ever before came to these classes – 1,550 more visits, an increase of 47%.

Children living in poverty deserve better than a starchy meal and a referral to another social service organization. That's why at YCP we provide healthy pantry packages, as well as a nutritionally balanced hot meal 8 times throughout the week. Learning how to cook and prepare fresh food is something parent and child enjoy, and that is why we saw a 39% increase in parent participation this year. All told, 5,521 participants learned how to prepare the carrots, corn, eggplant, kale and other fruit and vegetables they choose in our newly modeled choice pantry.

Choice is not only something we allow pantry families to have when they pick up their food packages, it is something that we facilitate by providing access to resources through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), tax completion and filing assistance, and application for other benefits. Through direct work, and the work of partners on-site, approximately \$3.5 million was accessed for our clients last year in addition to close to 1.9 million meals. That too is choice—the ability to have more resources to spend to keep your family housed, your lights on, and other bills paid facilitates other less pressing needs, like learning, activities and time spent with family.

Thank you for your support.

Stephen Grimaldi



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As I complete my first year as Chair of the Yorkville Common Pantry, I have a new level of understanding and appreciation for this wonderful organization. In the last year YCP has met new challenges and brought in new benefits to its clients, but it has managed to retain a remarkable culture of quiet goodness, of generosity of spirit achieved through steady work. We accomplish so much with so little, carrying on despite news of government cutbacks, market swings, and crushing poverty and inequality. I am conscious of the need for more individual support and proud of the gains we have made.

For myself, as much as I have learned by my work on the Board, it is still my weekly regular volunteering that brings me the real joy. I revel in being part of a uniquely diverse cadre of volunteers. I enjoy meeting new people each week who come as part of a student or corporate or religious volunteer group. I rejoice in seeing a client greeted by name, and reacting with joy that she is treated as a person, not a number. I love seeing the quality and volume of fresh produce we now distribute. I delight in being part of a team that accomplishes its work through the dedication of a small staff and the labor of an army of volunteers, regulars and one-timers, New Yorkers, and out of towners, old and young. You are part of us too! Come in and work to share the happiness it will bring you.

Wendy A. Stein

# NYC and National statistics:



**1** More than one out of every four New York City children ages 17 and younger live below the poverty level.

**2** Approximately one out of every five New York City children rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.

**“In New York City, a child is born into poverty every 17 seconds.”**

- Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

**3** An estimated 1.4 million New Yorkers rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.

**4** 38% of East Harlem residents live below the poverty line, nearly twice that of Manhattan residents as a whole.



## Client Story: Paul\*

A 58 year-old single homeless man, visited 365 YCP in search of food and a place to sleep. A 365 YCP caseworker provided an emergency brown bag meal and conducted an intake to determine if Paul was entitled to benefits that he wasn't receiving. Entitled to receive temporary cash benefits, Paul filled out the application with the assistance of his caseworker. Recently, Paul returned to YCP to express his gratitude and share that he was approved for full benefits: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Cash Assistance, Medicaid, and Rental Assistance.

\* Name has been changed to ensure privacy

# YCP Programs that address these needs



## **Food Pantry Program**

Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, YCP's Food Pantry Program, New York City's largest community-based food pantry, allows its thousands of participants to choose culturally appropriate, nutritionally balanced food packages. YCP's Pantry program serves all five boroughs of New York City. In 2011, the program became a client 'Choice Pantry', meaning Pantry members now have the option of choosing the food items they would like to receive in their Pantry package. Pantry members can now access each week's menu and place their order in advance via YCP's website or place their order when they visit YCP. Pantry members that choose to place their orders onsite do so by using wireless touch-screen tablets that transmit the order to the Pantry room, allowing volunteers to pack each bag according to each Pantry member's specifications with selections in each of the major food groups. Food packages can include items such as unsweetened fruit juice, sugar-free cereal, 1% or skim shelf-stable milk, pasta, rice, low-sodium or no sodium canned vegetables, a diverse variety of fresh produce, bread and frozen meat. Each family member receives three meals for four days. In FY 11, YCP's Pantry programs provided food assistance to 7,001 distinct families, who visited YCP 66,081 times in the course of the year. There was a 6.3% increase in the percentage of children served in YCP's pantry program in FY 11 vs. FY10.





### 365 YCP

This program is open 365 days a year to all Pantry members and provides screening by case managers to check for sufficient family income and resources. In addition to screening, 365 YCP staff assists with acquiring benefits and entitlements such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or make employment referrals; and provide assistance with accessing the other appropriate resources to prevent families from being evicted from their homes. Through a unique collaboration with NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA), 365 YCP staff directly process SNAP and Medicaid applications for families on-site. In addition, 365 YCP provides ready-to-eat brown bag meals on days that the Hot Meal Program does not serve.

**\$3,475,477**  
was accessed  
in new  
benefits and  
tax returns  
for Pantry  
members,  
more than  
double the  
previous year



## Client Story: Grace\*

was preparing for retirement before she lost her job and came to YCP to receive pantry and baby packages, complete with wipes, diapers, and food, for the two young great-grandsons in her care. In September 2010, YCP assisted Grace in filling out paperwork to become a foster parent. Starting in December, Grace began receiving financial assistance for her family. Grace filed her taxes at YCP and continues to receive pantry and baby packages.

*\* Name has been changed to ensure privacy*





### **Project Dignity**

Project Dignity provides case management services to homeless individuals. Case Managers offer counseling and referral services, access to benefits and entitlements, substance abuse treatment, and other medical and social services. Project Dignity's array of services is also designed to meet the most basic needs of YCP's clients— food, haircuts, mail service, laundry—as well as the larger, more challenging issues they face—long-term housing, health care, benefits and job training. The overall goal of the Program is to serve as a bridge back to health, well-being and self-sufficiency for our homeless and hungry clients. In FY 11, Project Dignity provided assistance to 357 distinct individuals.

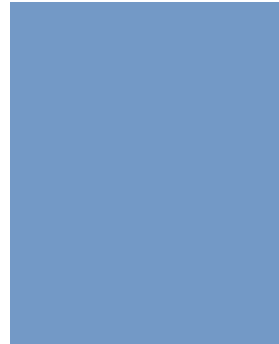
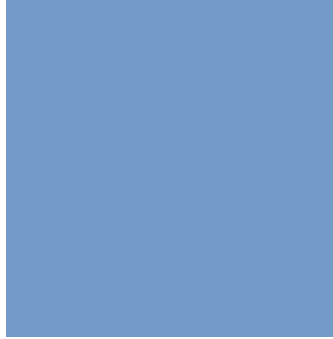
**“The greatest feeling one can give is to give of yourself. Participating in the dinner service at Yorkville Common Pantry was enriching and very fulfilling.”**

*Clarence Plummer, Volunteer from ING Financial Services.*



### **Hot Meal Program**

This program serves breakfast Monday through Friday and hot dinner on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. All meals are cooked on premises and our staff cooks prepare hearty balanced meals with wholesome ingredients. Beyond providing nutritious food, the program offers participants a chance to sit, eat, and socialize in a relaxing, safe, friendly atmosphere that offers a retreat from the stressors of being homeless or living in poverty. Additionally, we partner with other organizations to provide a range of medical screenings and legal assistance during meal programs. In FY 11, a total of 81,454 meals were provided through the Hot Meal Program, a *7% increase from FY 10.*



**“It’s always a pleasure to come to YCP. Watching peoples’ faces light up makes the Pfizer team realize how fortunate we are and how little it takes to make someone’s day brighter.”**

*Manny Cruz, Volunteer from Pfizer Inc.*

**Nutrition Initiative** for Children and Families (NICF)

Yorkville Common Pantry promotes healthy eating and nutrition education to children and adults through the Nutrition Initiative for Children and Families (NICF). Adult workshops are held on-site at YCP and children’s classes are held both on-site at community organizations around Harlem. The NICF Coordinator uses recipes that incorporate items distributed during the Pantry program and encourages clients to use Pantry staples to create nutritious, satisfying meals. Emphasis is placed on the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables to ensure that participants learn about vitamins and minerals and their impact on healthy living and longevity. In addition, the children’s classes take field trips to local farmers’ markets and New York State farms in Columbia County to enhance their learning experience.

# Impact of our programs

## Pantry & Hot Meal Program

Percentage of children that participated in Pantry and 365 YCP programs as percentage of whole population:

**28%**

Percentage of produce provided from local farms:

**80%**

**1,885,405**

total meals served through Pantry, NICF, brown bag and hot meal programs

Almost **6,000 more**

hot meals served from previous year

365 YCP

**42%**

of Pantry members received case management services in addition to food

For every **\$1** spent on Case Managers,

**\$8.67**

was accessed in benefits

## Project Dignity

**357** clients received case management services

**175**

clients received birth certificates or state ID cards

**21**

clients approved for supportive housing

## Nutrition Initiative

**3,328**

Children and

**2,193**

Adults participated in NICF sessions

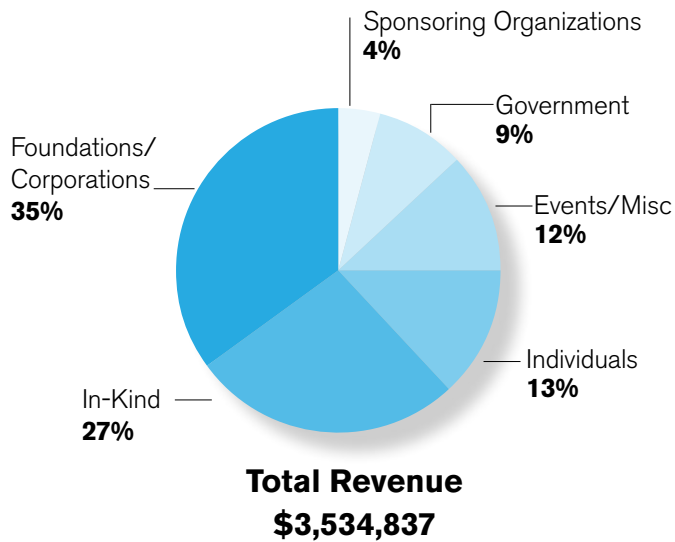
Increase in children that participated in NICF sessions from previous year:

**24%**

Total number of nutrition sessions held for children:

**148**



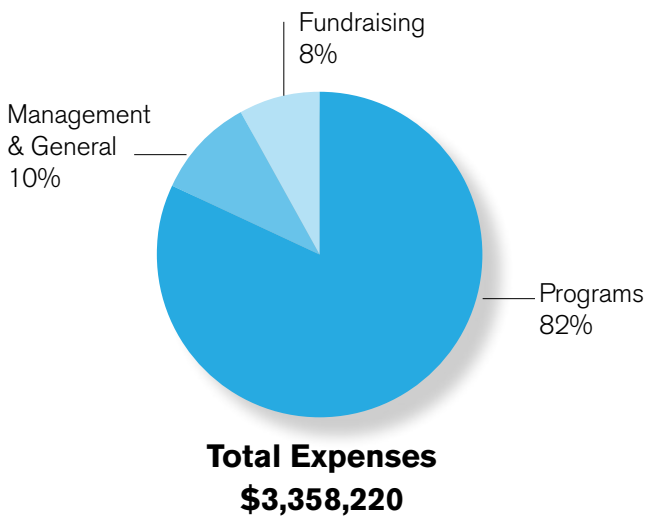


# Financial Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Net Assets for  
fiscal year ended  
June 30, 2011 are  
**\$5,368,326**

*The above information was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Audited financial statements are on file at Yorkville Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029. 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.*



## Client Story: Lenora Canty

is a resident of East Harlem and a Saturday client of YCP's Pantry Program. She lives with her son and 3 grandchildren and works Monday through Friday as a home attendant while the children are at school. She has received benefits counseling from the 365 YCP case management team, and she and her grandchildren are enthusiastic members of the Pantry as well as participants in cooking and nutrition education classes provided by YCP's Nutrition Initiative for Children and Families.

# 30th Anniversary Benefit

**“If it weren’t for YCP I wouldn’t be able to put food on the table for my grandchildren... I don’t know what I would do without YCP. I thank YCP for what they do for me and the community.”**

*Lenora Canty, Client Spotlight at 2011 Spring Benefit*

For several years YCP has held well-received fundraising events that celebrate the mission, programs, community partners and volunteers that make YCP successful. Our most recent event marked our 30th anniversary on March 10th, 2011 at riverpark: a Tom Colicchio restaurant and was the most successful ever. Rosanna Scotto, Anchor of Fox 5 News was Master of Ceremonies and presented the Helene Abraham Volunteer Community Service Award to YCP Board member, Doreen Morales and her late husband Larry Morales. The YCP Community Partner Award was presented to restaurant entrepreneur Jeffrey Zurofsky, founder of 'wichcraft and riverpark restaurants, and also to Park Avenue United Methodist Church for its many years of dedicated volunteer service at YCP. Some 240 guests attended the Cocktail Reception and Dinner, and took part in a Silent Auction and Raffle. Gross receipts for the event totaled over \$400,000 including a Live Auction to support YCP Programs. YCP depends on benefit proceeds to pay for our food and social service programs and the event also helps YCP introduce its programs and impact to a wider audience each year.



# The magnitude of volunteerism at YCP

**8,559 volunteers provided 26,615 hours of service to YCP**

Percentage of labor hours performed by volunteers:  
**40%**



Volunteers produced savings estimated at  
**\$370,000**  
in FY11



## WONDERING HOW YOU CAN HELP?

- Host a food drive
- Pack nutritious groceries for Pantry distribution
- Serve a Project Dignity hot meal
- Set up a presentation event to learn more about YCP and your community!

## Volunteer Honor Roll- groups that came to YCP three or more times in FY11. Thank you!



### Organizations

The Brick Presbyterian Church  
 buildOn  
 Center for Student Missions  
 Harlem RBI  
 Mission NYC  
 New York Junior League (NYJL)  
 New York Cares  
 New York City Coalition  
 Against Hunger (NYCCA)  
 Park Avenue Synagogue  
 Robin Hood  
 Sugar Hill Mennonite Mission  
 Temple Emanu-El  
 Temple Sharaay Tefila  
 United Way of New York City  
 WhyHunger  
 Youth Service Opportunity Project (YSOP)

### Schools

Throughout the years, YCP has built relationships with dozens of public and independent schools, ranging from nursery schools, elementary, middle and high schools, as well as colleges and universities. Last year, 93 schools were represented by volunteers and donors who made our programs possible. 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 client families. The commitment of our school volunteers is always inspiring and greatly appreciated. We especially thank the following schools for their work with us last year:



### Corporations

Bacardi  
 Bank of America  
 Beanstalk  
 Ernst & Young  
 Estée Lauder  
 Greenlight Capital  
 ING Financial Services  
 JP Morgan Private Wealth  
 Thor Equities, LLC  
 Wells Fargo



The Abraham Joshua Heschel School  
 Alexander Robertson School  
 The Allen-Stevenson School  
 All Souls School  
 Archbishop Carney Secondary School  
 Baruch College  
 The Beacon School  
 Bethel University  
 The Birch Wathen Lenox School

Bishop Miege High School  
 The Brearley School  
 The Brick Church School  
 Brooklyn College  
 The Browning School  
 Bushwick Leaders' High School  
 The Buckley School  
 The Caedmon School  
 The Calhoun School  
 The Cathedral School of St. John the Divine  
 Center for Community Action and Research at Pace University  
 The Chapin School  
 Colby College  
 Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School  
 Collegiate School  
 Convent of the Sacred Heart  
 Cooke Center Academy High School  
 The Dalton School  
 De La Salle Academy  
 Dominican Academy  
 The Dwight School  
 The East Harlem School at Exodus House  
 East Side Middle School  
 Eleanor Roosevelt High School  
 Ethical Culture Fieldston School  
 The Facing History School  
 The Family Foundation School  
 Friends Seminary  
 Harbor Science and Arts Charter School  
 The Hewitt School  
 Holy Name School  
 Horace Mann School  
 High School of Arts and Tech @ MLK Educational Campus  
 Hunter College  
 Hunter College High School  
 Hunter College Elementary School  
 International Pre-School  
 Issac Newton Middle School  
 Kings Collegiate Charter School, Brooklyn  
 La Scuola D'Italia  
 Loyola School  
 Lycée Français de New York  
 The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Day School  
 The Mandell Nursery School  
 Manhattan Country School  
 Marymount School  
 Midwood High School  
 Mott Hall High School 304  
 The Nightingale-Bamford School  
 New York University  
 Pace University  
 The Packer Collegiate School  
 The Park Avenue Christian Church Day School  
 Park Avenue Methodist Day School  
 People to People (students)  
 Philosophy Day School  
 P.S. 6  
 P.S. 030 Westerleigh  
 P.S. 151 Yorkville Community School  
 P.S. 171 Patrick Henry  
 P.S. 182  
 Ramaz School  
 Regis High School  
 Resurrection Episcopal Day School  
 Riverdale Country School  
 SAR High School  
 Seton Day Care Center  
 The Spence School  
 St. Bernard's School  
 St. David's School  
 St. Ignatius Loyola Nursery Day School  
 St. Jean Baptiste High School  
 St. Paul's Catholic Secondary School  
 St. Thomas More Play Group  
 M.S 45/ S.T.A.R.S. Prep Academy  
 Temple Emanu-El Nursery School  
 Temple Israel of the City of New York: Early Childhood Learning Center  
 Trevor Day School  
 Trinity School  
 Uncommon Schools: New York  
 The United Nations International School  
 The Urban Assembly Academy of Civic Engagement Urban Academy  
 Validus Preparatory Academy  
 Vanguard High School  
 Winston Preparatory School  
 York Preparatory School

# THANK YOU TO OUR ENTIRE DONOR COMMUNITY!

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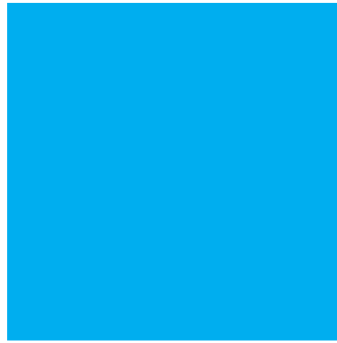
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