NY COMMON PANTRY

A NEW DAY
A BRIGHTER PATH

2021 Annual Report
When we wrote our annual report message last year, we thought we would soon be seeing the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we spent the next 12 months continuing to deal with the toll the virus has taken on human life as well as the devastating economic effects the virus has had on the communities of New York City.

During this past year we have seen tremendous increases in need over pre-pandemic numbers. 38% more New Yorkers are struggling to feed themselves and their families. 64% more children make up those who are food insecure. Visits to a food pantry from NYC residents has increased 46%. Our neighbors are struggling.

For a full year, New York Common Pantry (NYCP) distributed pantry packages and hot meals and provided social services on the sidewalks in front of our Choice Pantries in East Harlem and in the Bronx. For the first time, our guests and members were served outside, on the street. Visible.

“Food insecurity” was now personified. In the hottest days of summer, in the snow and cold of winter, in the rain and in the sunshine, the people we share our neighborhoods with saw the lines of people receiving food, they saw our staff, they saw our volunteers, they saw our heart.

Despite the challenges, we used FY21 to make NYCP a better organization. We served nearly 8 million meals over the course of the year. We connected with more communities in need than ever before through our Mobile Pantry Program. We leased a new warehouse space designed to maintain the freshness of our food and produce as our Nourish and Mobile Pantry programs continue to grow and directly serve communities farther away from our physical Choice Pantries. We invested in our programs and in our people. We increased our operational and financial flexibility. We listened, learned, and grew.

Our vision for this next year is A New Day, A Brighter Path. As the city reawakens we remain optimistic that we can again welcome our guests back into our Pantries for meals and services.

FY21 was anything but easy. We got through it the only way we could — together. We thank you, our donors and supporters, for believing in the importance of our work. We will continue to do everything we can to remain worthy of that belief. As a leader in our industry with a strong strategy in place, we’re ready for whatever next year brings.

Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director
Elaine Clark, Board Chair

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

NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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A new day, a brighter path.

For the last 18 months, New Yorkers have been encouraged to keep up to six feet away from one another. To celebrate birthdays and graduations not in a public park or restaurant together; but via a computer camera, to vehicle and cheer for essential workers at the same time each night, but to do so separately. In a city where it’s near impossible to walk down the street without encountering at least a half a dozen other people, this was particularly isolating for many. As the New York Common Pantry (NYCP), we saw this isolation first hand. No more sharing a table and catching up over hot meals. No more chatting while ordering Pantry packages. No more getting a hugs and telling a funny story to the barber. Social distancing ruled, eating alone was the norm, and hackers would have to wait.

On the flip side, we also saw the tremendous response from our clients, our fellow community organizations, from our volunteers. We immediately found ways to join forces with other nonprofits across the city to ensure the most vulnerable among us, the seniors, the immunocompromised, the children, had the food and services they needed. NYCP, or enhanced, dozens of partnerships with organizations like Fresh Touch Initiative and West Side Campaign Against Hunger that opened our services to thousands of New Yorkers. We found solutions. As we look forward, we aim to maintain these lessons learned. At the same time, yes, but remember that we can’t do it alone. Prepare for the unexpected, but reach out and ask for help when we need it. Experiment, and recognize the importance of our team. Today we are here, we are ready, we have food. Tomorrow, when that brighter day comes and we see fewer New Yorkers coming to our Pantry doors, we’ll celebrate and know we did it together. The only way we could have.

CoV-19 Response

In order to serve the community while maintaining health and safety protocols, NYCP had to adjust several aspects of its programming. Most notably, we moved our food distribution outside of our Pantries and received using our robust volunteer program for a time. We temporarily halted hygiene services, and our community programs went virtual. We used the opportunity to innovate. We closed the street to serve our annual Thanksgiving lunch outside and we launched a mobile Pantry program to serve more guests where they live.

Today things are looking up. As we look forward, we aim to maintain these lessons learned. We are here, we are ready, we have food. Tomorrow, when that brighter day comes and we see fewer New Yorkers coming to our Pantry doors, we’ll celebrate and know we did it together. The only way we could have.

“NYCP is building bonds with the community and we’re always looking for new collaborations to find different ways to deliver our services to participants.”

Sam, an NYCP volunteer, helps people change their lives. They witness transformation. For him, NYCP Help 365 Bi-Lingual Case Manager, part of what made working through the COVID-19 pandemic more challenging was being unable to do in person and have long conversations with her participants. In a profession where compassion and connection is critical, this was overwhelming. But that’s also a gift of the way she, and her colleagues, responded. They found ways to troubleshoot the hardships participants are facing through conversations over the phone or through email, through the sidewalk in front of the Pantry. “We responded to the challenge very quickly and we’ve thought ahead about what else we can do,” she said. That wasn’t the case, even if, just right now, the way case management is delivered looks a little different.

Xin Zeng
NYCP Staff • Help 365 Bi-Lingual Case Manager

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Providing nutritious food from start to table

We buy nutritious, quality food from diverse suppliers including farmers.

We receive food donations from individuals, corporations and charities.

Our volunteers and staff sort food to prepare it for distribution.

We distribute food to our sites and storage facilities in East Harlem and the Bronx.

We send food to far-flung neighborhoods using our fleet of Mobile Pantry vehicles.

We share food with partner organizations to expand our network and reach.

New York Common Pantry distributes a lot of food — more than 8 million pounds last year alone. As we continue to reduce hunger in NYC, we will need to provide millions more meals in the years to come. Where do we get all of this touch? It varies. From individual donors and schools and corporate food drives. From farms and food banks, the route our food takes to get from its starting point to our members’ tables is less a straight line, and more a journey.

Food Sources

- 60% Purchased from suppliers
- 40% Donated by individuals, groups & corporations

Food Distribution

- 8.1 Million Pounds of Food Distributed
  - 1.4 Million Pounds of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
  - 6.7 Million Pounds of Canned Goods and Pantry Staples
  - 57,701 Hot Meals and Brown Bags Served

Comprehensive Services

- 516,899 Individual Visits
- 92,265 Hours Spent Providing Social Services, Nutrition Education and Whole Person Support
- $4+ Million in Resources Accessed for Individuals and Families

8.1 Million Pounds of Food Distributed

516,899 Individual Visits

92,265 Hours

Number of Service Sites By Zip Code

2021 Highlights

Food Sources

Food Distribution

Comprehensive Services

Number of Service Sites By Zip Code
Johny St. Preux
NYCP Staff • Mobile Pantry

Johny was one of the first drivers for Mobile Pantry and he often made deliveries to the same communities during the height of the pandemic. A lonely job, he distributed bags of shelf stable food and fresh produce to people he never saw. Health and safety dictated he drop off the bags and leave them for their recipients to pick up later. One day, while dropping off bags, he saw a note, “Thank You.” Simple, meaningful, profound. “That really touched me,” Johny said. “I know this job is important but to see that and really know how important, that was something else.” He keeps moments like that with him as he makes deliveries to communities and to organizations all over the city.

Flor Romero
NYCP Guest • Help 365

Flor was in a bad financial situation. Although eligible, she was not signed up for SNAP benefits, she was helping care for her granddaughter, and the pandemic made an already tenuous situation dire. “I needed help but I didn’t know where to go,” she said. But she knew from other residents in her East Harlem building that NYCP was a place that helps people. She visited the Pantry, asked for assistance, and got the help she needed. She’s signed up for SNAP, received assistance filling out her taxes, and has gotten confusing, but important, government mail translated for her so she could keep on top of her tasks. “Whatever I need help with, they help me. I’m good now.”

REACHING ACROSS THE CITY

Adaptation, ingenuity, and teamwork.
That is the story of our Mobile Pantry Program. As nonprofits across New York City adjusted to providing services during a pandemic, gaps in care emerged. Organizations with an education or youth or mentoring mission realized the families and children they serve were struggling in another way — many were also dealing with food insecurity. At New York Common Pantry we’ve long committed to working with other community organizations, knowing the best way to improve our range of services is by collaboration. So when friends at Bridge Builders Community Partnership reached out to see if we could help with some of the food needs of their community, we said yes first and figured out how to achieve the goal second. The food was easy. Planning the best way to get it to the families in need took some figuring. Ultimately, we repurposed a Food Rescue truck, loaded it up with Pantry packages of shelf stable items and fresh produce, and drove it up to the Bronx for weekly “curbside delivery” at their Community Center. Our Mobile Pantry Program was born. From there, we added 50 partner sites, building collaborations and partnerships with organizations citywide to distribute nutritionally balanced grocery packages to over 11,000 individuals and families who could not get to our brick-and-mortar Pantries in East Harlem or the Bronx. In FY21, our “roving Pantry” served over 1.2 million meals, providing assistance in underserved neighborhoods throughout New York City. The Mobile Pantry program is growing, but of course we need to return our Food Rescue vehicles to their intended use. The next step for the program is the addition of a custom Mobile Pantry vehicle with refrigeration and freezer space, and a concession window to serve Pantry members directly from the truck. We’ll take delivery of our first Mobile Pantry vehicle soon. With its custom vehicle, the program will offer social services support as well as nutrition education alongside distribution of pantry packages — bringing all the services Choice Pantry members can access in East Harlem and the Bronx to any place we can park!
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.

**Revenue by Type**
- Corporations & Foundations: 31%
- Individuals: 21%
- In-Kind: 26%
- Government: 18%
- Events: 3.5%

**Expense by Type**
- Programs: 89%
- Management: 6%
- Fundraising: 5%

**Cost Per Choice Pantry Meal**: $1.34

**Note**: Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on food insecurity, FY21 saw an increase in one-time emergency gifts that will not continue into FY22. Due to pandemic-related increases in demand across New York City, NYCP will retain these funds into our mission by expanding our Mobile Pantry program, begin a large-scale construction and renovation project in the Bronx that will consolidate food storage and distribution for several of our programs and develop an ADA compliant service site for food insecure seniors.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021**

**Net Assets**: $13.9M | **Revenue**: $20.1M | **Expense**: $15.7M

**Revenue**

**Expense**

**2021 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!
I understand how fast the daily costs of New York City can sneak up on people in bad times,” wrote Rob, a FreshDirect customer who donates to NYCP through his FreshDirect grocery cart. “We feel privileged to be able to help our neighbors in need.” Rob speaks for over 40,000 of his fellow New Yorkers who gave annually, monthly, and weekly through a partnership that NYCP has with FreshDirect. It has been an incredible effort—customers donated over $3 million through their online grocery carts to ensure their neighbors would continue to receive nutritious food and critical social services so to safely make it through the pandemic. Community to community, neighbor to neighbor, shopper to shopper. The impact has been remarkable. Thank you to everyone who added something to their grocery cart with the simple desire to help someone they may never meet.

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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 $2,500 and regret that space limitations prevent us from listing each name in this report. Thank you all!

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Church of St. Thomas More

Church of St. Vincent Ferrer
Church of the Heavenly Rest
Congregation Or Zana
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
Muslim Volunteers for New York
Park Avenue Synagogue
St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church
The Unitarian Church of All Souls

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New York City Football Club
NYCP Supporters

Donations, volunteers, toys, community programs, and smiles. New York City Football Club (NYCFC) has brought them all to our Choice Pantries in the Bronx and East Harlem. NYCFC has been instrumental in our success this past year and is a standout among our community partners. Their program “City in the Community” builds on City Football Group’s long standing tradition of supporting community initiatives across the globe. With NYCFC, their C suite and staff has routinely volunteered (over 136 hours!) to distribute Pantry packages and hot meals to the community, they’ve held several fundraisers for NYCPC, including a Comedy Night that featured members of the NYCFC team, during our annual Toy Drive at the holidays, they donated (and inflated!) soccer balls for kids. Whenever staff and guests see the team in Sky Blue at the Pantry, we know great work, and good fun, will be had. Thank you NYCFC!
Zhixing Hou, an attorney, came alone to the United States. His plan was to establish himself and then bring his family over. But a tragic fall resulted in brain damage and changed those plans. It took years to regain normal function and reunite with his family; in the meantime he fell into a deep financial hole. A NYCHA social worker told him about NYCP. “We had no idea what a food pantry was,” he said laughing, “It was a totally new concept to us.” Their NYCP case manager told them about the services available to them — supplemental food, but also translation services, and help accessing SNAP benefits and Medicaid. “The Pantry is like a bridge, connecting people to resources and new friends,” he said. “We’ve met so many new people here who are kind and friendly. Because of the Pantry, we feel connected.”

NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY
2021 LEADERSHIP
As of September, 2021

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Get Involved.
Support New York Common Pantry.

Volunteer.
Our robust volunteer program is essential to our approach to serving New York City.

Partner.
From providing tactical support, to food rescue, our partners are critical to what we do.

Donate.
From funds to food drives, we are grateful for all the ways you contribute.