



**A NEW
DAY**

**A BRIGHTER
PATH**

2021 Annual Report



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

**As the city
reawakens,
we’re here for
New Yorkers.**

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
Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director

Elaine Clark
Elaine Clark, Board Chair

NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Barbara Woods
NYCP Guest • Choice Pantry

“If I didn’t come to the Pantry, I don’t think I would be able to provide good, healthy, balanced meals for my children.”

Keeping a kitchen pantry and a refrigerator filled, especially during the holidays, isn’t cheap. Barbara, a Choice Pantry Member, has become expert at making sure her family has the food items they need while keeping to her budget. One of the ways she can stretch a dollar is to pick up supplemental packages from the New York Common Pantry. “The Pantry has helped me tremendously,” she said. “Especially during the pandemic, everything is so expensive. I come twice a month and I’m ecstatic to have this extra help.” As a Choice Pantry member, Barbara is able to receive staple items along with fresh produce throughout the year and during the holidays, she’s able to fill her Thanksgiving table with turkey and all the fixin’s.



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 whistle 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. At 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 haircut and telling a funny story to the barber. Social distancing ruled, eating alone was the norm, and haircuts would have to wait.

On the flip side, we also saw the tremendous response from our donors, 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. We began, or enhanced, dozens of partnerships with organizations like Fresh Youth Initiative and West Side Campaign Against Hunger that opened our services up to thousands of New Yorkers. We found solutions.

As we look forward, we aim to maintain these lessons learned. Be agile, 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.

Covid-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 ceased 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. We have been able to reintroduce volunteers, brought back hygiene services, and we look forward to reopening our communal dining. We’ve missed the connection eating together brings and can’t wait to see everyone back inside, safe and healthy.

AN INNOVATIVE
APPROACH TO
COVID-19 RECOVERY ▶

LEVERAGING OUR
RESOURCES TO
SERVE MORE PEOPLE

EXPANDING OUR
REACH TO SERVE MORE
NEIGHBORHOODS

Xin Zeng
NYCP Staff • Help 365

“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.”

Case managers help people change their lives. They witness transformation. For Xin, NYCP Help 365 Bi-Lingual Case Manager, part of what made working through the COVID-19 pandemic more challenging was being unable to sit down in person and have long conversations with her participants. In a profession where compassion and connection is critical, this loss was noticeable. But Xin says she’s proud 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, and even on the sidewalk in front of the Pantry. “We responded to the challenge very quickly and we’ve thought about what other roles we can play,” she said. That won’t change, even if, right now, the way case management is delivered looks a little different.



PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS
FOOD
FROM START TO TABLE

1


We buy nutritious, quality food from diverse suppliers including farmers



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 food? It varies. From individual donors and school 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.

2

We receive food donations from individuals, corporations and charities



3

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



4

Our volunteers and staff sort food to prepare it for distribution



6

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



5

We distribute food at our Choice Pantries using innovative technology and well-honed systems



7

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



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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

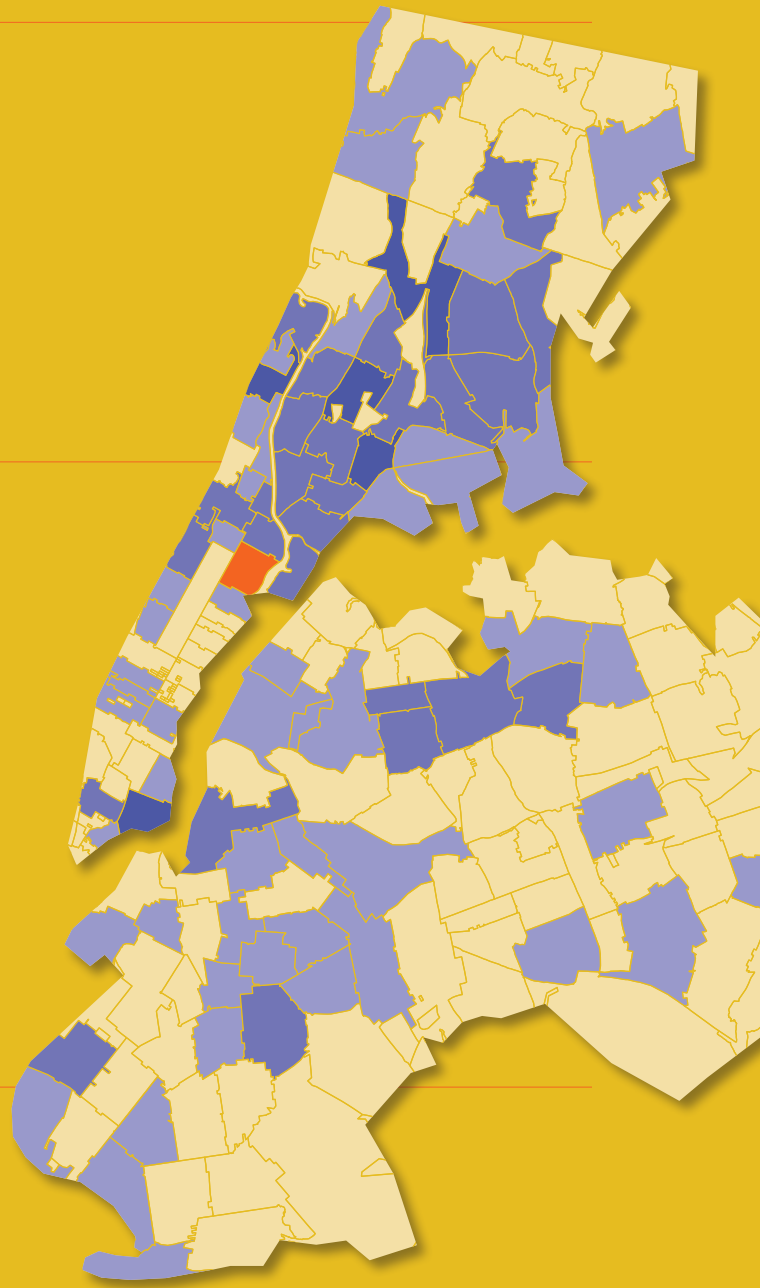
516,899 Individual Visits



92,265 Hours
Spent Providing Social Services, Nutrition Education and Whole Person Support



\$4+ Million
In Resources Accessed for Individuals and Families



Number of Service Sites By Zip Code

Color	Range
Light Blue	<2
Medium Blue	<4
Dark Blue	<6
Red	<8
Dark Red	+10



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!



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."

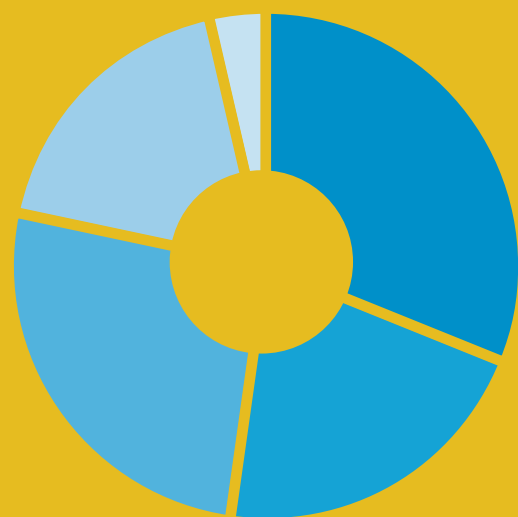


FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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.

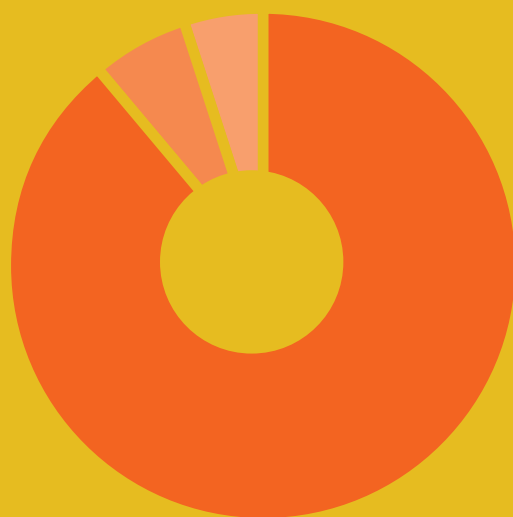
Net Assets: \$13.9M | Revenue: \$20.1M | Expense: \$15.7M



Revenue by Type



Other Sources: less than 0.5%
Includes sponsoring organizations, bequests, interest, and miscellaneous



Expense by Type



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 reinvest 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.

* This information shown here was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Audited financial statements are on file at New York Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029. A copy of the audited financial statement filed with the New York State Office of Charities Registration may be obtained on request from New York Common Pantry or at nycommonpantry.org.

Thank you! 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!

VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

Individuals and groups that
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New York City Football Club

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Bread and Butter Membership
recognizes individuals who make
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Giving While Getting Online Groceries

“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** 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 our listing each name in this report. Thank you all!

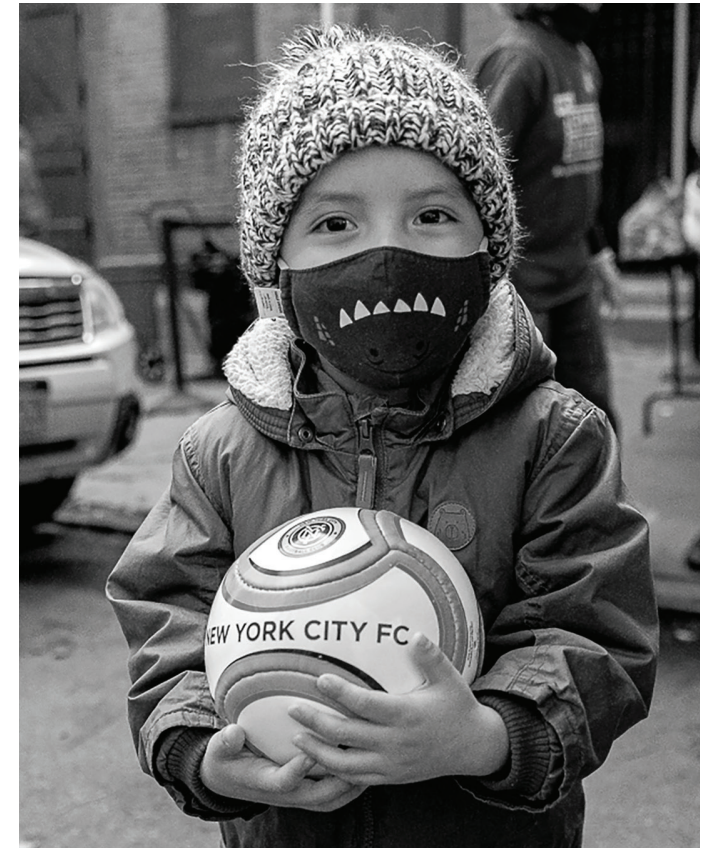
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New York City Football Club NYCP Supporters

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 NYCP, 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 NYCP, 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

NYCP Guest • Help 365 and Choice Pantry

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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