HAVING A ‘FULL PLATE’ MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE.

At New York Common Pantry it is an appropriate description of the most basic concrete goal: to serve each person who walks through our doors balanced and nutritious meals. Having a “full plate” is also an apt metaphor for the organizational philosophy and approach involved in helping people bridge seemingly insurmountable household budget gaps and become self-sustaining. Our own plates at New York Common Pantry are full precisely because these goals are far more difficult to achieve, yet absolutely necessary if we are to help those we serve to move forward, to move from fuller plates to fuller lives. Our person to person approach and knowledge of the resources, skills and training available to those we serve is often a game changer.

When households are stabilized through a variety of services—resource acquisition, financial counseling, and knowledge of how to eat affordably without sacrificing health—families are given a fighting chance, and often lifted out of poverty. These outcomes are not easily accomplished without the commitment of each participant in our program, as well as a strong team of trustees, advisory council members, funders, donors, service partners, volunteers, and staff. Last year this team included a new group of major donors, ‘Bread and Butter,’ that grew from a burgeoning idea to 12 fully committed members by the end of June 2014 and has now grown further.

Together, all of our team members are partners in helping New Yorkers in need fulfill their dreams and live fuller lives.

Stephen Grimaldi  Michael Fitzsimons
Executive Director   Board Chair
As a young man James Reynolds served in the U.S. military—but by the time he turned 65 he was without a home or other resources. When Mr. Reynolds came to New York Common Pantry for help in August of 2013 he was interviewed by our Case Manager, who also screened him through a resource eligibility calculator. Mr. Reynolds learned that he was eligible to receive Veterans Benefits and other resources, but he needed a stable address where he could get his mail. This service was set up for him through Project Dignity, and later Mr. Reynolds was escorted to the Social Security Office. There he learned that, like many seniors, he was eligible for Social Security, and since that time he has been approved for benefits as a veteran of the armed services. Crucially, he has also obtained housing. With these key supports Mr. Reynolds has a chance to live with a greater level of dignity and self-sufficiency.
By all numeric measures, the need is daunting. Over the last decade the problems of hunger and poverty have increased in severity, affecting more of our families, friends and neighbors here in New York City. 2.6 million New Yorkers experienced food insecurity in the past year and children are rising in the ranks of those included in the count. At the same time federal and state aid programs have contracted while local emergency food programs continue to close their doors due to a lack of funding. So what do we do to keep pace with or even get ahead of the challenge?

New York Common Pantry adapts and innovates in response.
For us, combating daily hunger is the jumping-off point from which we launch an overall effort to increase the wellness, stability and self-sufficiency of New Yorkers in need. We start by responding to the immediacy of an empty plate and food insecurity and go further by providing tools and resources designed to engender life-changing transformations.

1 Ratio derived from the Food Bank for New York City’s data that 2.6 million New Yorkers experienced food insecurity in 2013 and The Department of City Planning’s report that the population of New York City for that year was 8.4 million.
MEETING DEMAND IN 2014.

Our Mission: New York Common Pantry is dedicated to reducing hunger throughout New York City while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency.

MORE MEALS
New York Common Pantry provided New Yorkers with 2,909,365 meals in 2014.

MORE PEOPLE

MORE RESOURCES
New York Common Pantry helped New Yorkers access $5,908,331 in income support.
FACING TOUGHER CHALLENGES.

Hunger and its surrounding issues were a focal point in the federal and local government this past year. The 2009 Recovery Act’s temporary boost to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits ended on November 1, 2013. Nationally, the total cut was estimated to be $5 billion in fiscal year 2014. These cuts were predicted to cause hardship for SNAP participants, who included 22 million children in 2014 and 9 million people who are elderly or have a serious disability.

The November cut was the equivalent of taking away $30 per household per month. Here in New York City at New York Common Pantry, our members felt the impact of the cuts. As seen in a feature in The Guardian about the cuts and our Pantry’s response, one Pantry member stated “When the food runs out I usually ask my family for help. It’s hard to make ends meet. I get tired of asking them and they are having trouble too. I live in Manhattan and food is expensive. It’s crazy.” Forty-one percent of surveyed Pantry members reported visiting New York Common Pantry more often since the SNAP cuts went into effect. Further cuts to the SNAP program will continue to adversely affect those we serve.

AN UNCOMMON SOLUTION TO HUNGER.

“An Uncommon Solution to Hunger” embodies our multifaceted approach to reducing hunger for New Yorkers throughout the city while addressing the federal cuts. In addition to serving more people and meals, we increased work to expand our city-wide approach to providing comprehensive social services.

Most significantly, we helped generate greater momentum around increasing access and eligibility to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other resources. This past year, New York Common Pantry
and our on-site partners helped visitors access over $1 million in tax returns, allowing more people to move out of poverty and thus have access to a fuller life.

Additionally we found creative ways to build the scope of our programming and its reach. This included holding our first culinary pilot program that taught cooking and employment skills, increasing food rescue with the help of a new van, beginning Help 365 Mobile (an RV that provides case management services to the Rockaways and Brooklyn), and increasing the locations of our Live Healthy! classes to include the Rockaways and the South Bronx.

SHE FOUND A NETWORK OF SUPPORT.

Hailey Haddaway, a 33 year-old single mother with twin girls, lives in a nearby shelter and works as an advocate for the homeless. In the fall of 2013 she lost her income support. Hailey worked with a Case Manager to navigate the process to restore it. Now receiving SNAP she balances her family’s meals by visiting Choice Pantry and credits the fresh fruit and vegetables she receives as a way to save money. Hailey and her daughters also visit to eat breakfast and dinner, do their laundry, and meet with a medical doctor on-site. Hailey says she visits New York Common Pantry because “it is efficient and the friendly staff are always looking to build connections and connect me to resources.” In the fall Hailey and her daughters will participate in Live Healthy! classes to learn how to make healthy meals.

Choice Pantry is New York City’s largest community-based food pantry. It allows participants city-wide to select culturally appropriate, nutritionally balanced food packages. In 2014, the program served households from 165 zip codes from all five boroughs.

2014 CHOICE PANTRY HIGHLIGHTS
• Served 2,773,980 meals to 233,508 visitors
• Served 9,913 households
• Served 20% more individual adults, 20% more individual children, and 19% more individual seniors

Help 365 assists Pantry members with acquisition of resources like income support. This year the program expanded to serve people living in Queens and Brooklyn through Help 365 Mobile and helped provide access to benefits for 7,123 households across New York City.

2014 HELP 365 HIGHLIGHTS
• Accessed $4,821,331 in new resources for visitors
• Launched Help 365 Mobile, a new program, in partnership with Food Bank for NYC to access $301,706 in resources for residents in the Rockaways
**LIVE HEALTHY!**

Live Healthy! educates adults, children, and their families about healthy eating, nutrition, and active living. In 2014, the program offered classes in East Harlem, Upper Manhattan, the South Bronx, and Queens to over 900 participants.

**2014 LIVE HEALTHY! HIGHLIGHTS**

- Expanded to provide classes in 3 out of the 5 boroughs
- Held 19% more adult cooking classes
- Held 156% more children and family sessions

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**PROJECT DIGNITY**

Project Dignity offers homeless individuals counseling, referral services, and assistance to obtain resources. The program also provides haircuts, mail distribution, and laundry services. In 2014, it served 265 homeless New Yorkers.

**2014 PROJECT DIGNITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Accessed $1,087,000 in new resources for homeless visitors

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**HOT MEALS**

Each week Hot Meals provides eight hearty, nutritionally-balanced meals using whole-some ingredients. In 2014, the program gave 18,000 New Yorkers a chance to sit, eat, and socialize in a relaxing, safe, and friendly environment.

**2014 HOT MEALS HIGHLIGHTS**

- Served 66,217 meals
USING DATA & TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE EFFICACY.

At New York Common Pantry, we seek out the best information on new methods, as when Toyota donated kaizen expertise to help re-design our food program spaces, or McKinsey’s consultants offered guidance for our strategic planning process. This quest for innovation includes new ways to capture and evaluate data, then transform what we learn into carefully designed programs. It lets us serve more people each year, and reduce hunger throughout New York City—by increasing efficiency to provide more food in our Choice Pantry, hot meals, and brown bag programs, by helping more people access greater resources, and by allowing us to respond with mobile services when disaster strikes. It even lets Pantry members order through smart tablets when they arrive at our building or online from other locations. What they order feeds into our database, supporting cost-effective food procurement and program evaluation.

PUTTING OUR MEMBERS FIRST.

Innovation is reflected in the relationships we build and maintain as well as the technology we use. This lets us pursue excellence to target and achieve results, at the same time that we retain the positive, person-to-person exchange that has always been at the heart of our work. This takes place in our personal case management program, interactions between our volunteers, staff and visitors during pantry distribution and meal service, between staff members or Board Members and our donors, or with our partners and peers who also work to reduce hunger. In addition to efficient operation of our programs, the results include a high level of customer satisfaction; a steady stream of volunteers; a staff that is mission-focused and supported to achieve success; and an increasing pool of donors and other supporters.

PARTNERING FOR GREATER SUCCESS.

Our approach to providing uncommon solutions includes partnering with organizations of many types and sizes. Working with Food Bank for New York City, we launched Help 365 Mobile, currently serving areas in Queens and Brooklyn through resource-focused case management. Action Center for Education and Community Development in Far Rockaway hosts Help 365 Mobile as well as our Live Healthy! classes. Live Healthy! has grown to provide programming beyond our East Harlem location to schools in Upper Manhattan, the South Bronx, and Queens. In Manhattan, partnerships include restaurants, grocery stores, and corporate cafeterias, which helped us increase the amount of food that we rescued to offset decreased food donations by city and federal sources. Through all these partnerships, we are expanding our reach throughout the city and helping people gain access to a fuller life.

NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY
2014 AWARDS & GRANTS

- Recipient of City Harvest’s 2014 Partnership Award for our work with The Action Center for Education and Community Development
- Presented with the Jan Paneth Community Service Award from the Mt. Sinai Auxiliary Board
- Received support from Food Bank for New York City to initiate Help 365 Mobile
- Awarded over $52,000 through the NY State Office of the Governor and Department of Health to support our work in Sandy-affected communities
- Granted a special $50,000 Food for Good award from Robin Hood Foundation to support our food programs
GROWTH, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

New York Common Pantry has a strong financial oversight system supporting best practices and ensuring accountability. We maintain robust fiscal policies and procedures detailing controls required for avoiding waste, fraud and other risks and including Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower, Political Contributions, Document Retention, and Investment and Gift Policies. Since 2012, we have had a Measuring Impact and Effectiveness Policy, which ensures we have measurable goals and objectives in place in order to evaluate success annually. This past year we met 93 percent of the year’s set goals.

New York Common Pantry is committed to financial transparency. In addition to providing programmatic information, all financial reports and legal documents including Audit Reviews, IRS 990 forms, New York State Charities Registration forms and other relevant state and city licenses, are posted publicly on our website. For the past six years, we have not received a letter of management with our audit. Once again this year we have received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and we are accredited through Better Business Bureau.

This information was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Audited financial statements are on file at New York Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029. A copy of the audited statement filed with the New York State Office of Charities Registration may be obtained on request from New York Common Pantry, or at www.nycommonpantry.org.
FORTUNATELY, WE AREN’T IN THIS ALONE.

It’s the impact of supporters like Sylvia, who is profiled below, that has made it possible for us to serve more and more New Yorkers. Whether it is their time and effort, special skills and talents, food, or financial donations—thousands of people with resources to share step forward to offer them to serve tens of thousands of others each year.

These contributions coupled with the efficiency of our operations made it possible to distribute 2.9 million meals with a paid staff of 29 from our one small building on East 109th Street last year.

Ways to support this growing team and make a difference are listed on page 17!

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

In FY14, 14,195 volunteers provided 46,615 hours of service to the Pantry. These volunteer hours represent $1,232,966 in saved labor costs for the agency based on New York State’s 2013 volunteer rate. Nearly 50 percent of New York Common Pantry’s labor is performed by volunteers, allowing us to maintain lower overhead and cost per meal.

GENEROUS DONORS WHO TRULY PROVIDE A LIFE-LINE.

Since 80 to 90 percent of our funding each year has historically come from private rather than government sources, every donation has an immediate impact on the amount of food and other help we can give. Many hands supported this year’s increase in services—starting with 800 new donors large and small. Many friends took part in our Fill The Bag Benefit on March 3rd, honoring The Estée Lauder Companies, Michael Nachman, and The Buckley School. They raised over $700,000 to support our work—far surpassing our previous record. Throughout the year we were touched to receive gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones, friends and associates.

And we’re proud to say that this year a very special group of donors formed to support our work and encourage others to do the same. Taking the imaginative and appropriate name ‘Bread and Butter,’ by the end of the fiscal year this included 12 committed members who agreed to make a gift of $10,000 or more each year. We are grateful for their leadership and support!
Sylvia first volunteered at the Pantry three years ago and has become a regular volunteer on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. A New York Cares volunteer team leader, Sylvia returns to the Pantry every week because “New York Common Pantry has a system that makes sure there is always something that can be done to make a difference for someone else.” Sylvia particularly enjoys working with the Tuesday volunteers to stock the delivered food in the Pantry. As she describes it, there are always people beating down the doors to lift the bananas from the truck into the Pantry. To her the volunteers are a family and working in the Pantry is fun and meaningful. According to Sylvia, the best part about being a New York Common Pantry volunteer is realizing that her presence plays an integral role in making someone else’s life better.
THANKS TO YOU:
Our support comes in many different forms—from individuals and organizations, volunteers and donors, and those who help in other ways. All have impact!
We express our heartfelt appreciation to the hundreds of donors who gave food, toys, and cash contributions in amounts less than $500 and regret that space limitations prevent our listing each donor who gave food, toys, and cash contributions in amounts less than $500 and regret that space limitations prevent our listing each donor name in this report. Thank you all!
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Bread and Butter membership recognizes individuals who make an annual gift of $10,000 or more. Their ongoing commitment supports the growth achieved through our new name, expanded city-wide focus, and the increased number of New Yorkers we now serve.

Sherrell Andrews and Rob Kuhbach
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The Unitarian Church of All Souls
VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

Volunteers are a critical component in our ability to run effective programming. From unloading delivery trucks and stocking the pantry, helping members choose their food, packing all Pantry orders, and serving breakfast and dinner, volunteers ensure that we are able to serve all who come through our doors.

Becoming a volunteer is easy! You can even come with your friends or coworkers. To learn more about volunteering visit: http://nycommonpantry.org/volunteer.html. To set up a date to volunteer e-mail Jen Winter at jwinter@nycommonpantry.org

DONORS LAY THE FOUNDATION.

Thank you for your support! You can provide support by using the enclosed envelope or by visiting our website: www.nycommonpantry.org

Remember New York Common Pantry through your will, trust, or other estate planning to have an ongoing impact on our ability to reduce hunger. If you would like to find more about how to help in this way, contact Jesse Regis at 917.720.9732 or jregis@nycommonpantry.org. If you’ve already done so thank you—and please be sure to let us know!

To learn more about us or to find out different ways that you can help us, visit our website at www.nycommonpantry.org

Visit Us: www.facebook.com/NYCommonPantry Follow Us: @ NYCommonPantry

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