NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY
2023 Annual Report
New York Common Pantry reduces hunger and promotes dignity, health and self-sufficiency.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”
— James Baldwin

This year has been a time of significant change and growth for New York Common Pantry (NYCP). Nearly 3 million people in New York City (NYC) are struggling to make ends meet.1 Fifty percent of working families lack the income to afford basic needs: housing, childcare, food, healthcare, transportation, and miscellaneous items such as clothing and taxes.2 This continued hardship means our services are needed more than ever.

Our reach has never been greater, with nearly 300 sites serving families in communities across NYC, lower Westchester, and parts of Long Island. NYCP assists everyone: working families with children, single mothers, senior citizens living on fixed incomes, the unhoused, and asylum-seekers who are overwhelming the city. Between our brick-and-mortar locations and mobile food deliveries, we’ve distributed more than 10 million meals to people like Sarah, a single, working mother of three young children living in the Bronx. When SNAP cuts took effect in March, Sarah was forced to reduce her budget where she had the most control — on food. Realizing this was neither a healthy nor a long-term solution, she signed up for our Bronx Pantry Program. She is relieved and grateful for the nutritious food we provide for her family.

In response to increased need, NYCP recently purchased and is renovating a Food Storage and Distribution Hub by the Hunts Point Market in the Bronx. This 23,500 sq. ft. Hub enables us to double our capacity in many ways. We can serve twice as many families and store twice as much food. Purchasing food in bulk saves us 20-25% in costs. NYCP can rescue even more fresh produce from the Hunts Point Market, benefiting our participants immediately. And larger volunteer groups can sort and pack more fresh food. All these economies of scale will lower our costs, allowing us to reinvest these savings into our food programs.

We could only have reached these milestones with your unwavering support. NYCP is indebted to you — our donors, volunteers and partners — for enabling us to expand our programs and services that help so many in our communities. Thank you for facing these challenges with us and working together to make change.

Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director
Margie Sung, Board Chair

2 Ibid.
Understanding deeply.

Food insecurity is the crisis that never seems to go away. More than half of New Yorkers earn less than $46,060 annually, and of those, 61% with children endured food hardship in 2022. Additionally, SNAP cuts reduced 1.7 million New Yorkers’ food budget to $6 a day.

People become food insecure when food is too far away (a “food desert”), unaffordable, or other basic cost of living expenses compete for limited resources. As food prices soar and families must decide between buying groceries or paying rent, thousands of NYC children go to bed hungry each night — the problem is particularly acute in neighborhoods where the nearest supermarket is one mile or farther away. These are our neighbors — the individuals and families NYCP works with every day, providing food and social services to help increase stability in their lives.

Responding comprehensively.

We help those struggling to make ends meet with programs and services that address the root causes of food insecurity and take a holistic approach to poverty-related instability.

NYCP provides high-quality, nutritious food. Our pantries offer guests the option to select the fresh produce and shelf-stable groceries that best meet their needs. Our Farm Share program provides affordable seasonal fruits and vegetables. We distribute supplemental groceries to seniors and offer the unhoused daily meals as well as hygiene services.

NYCP provides nutrition and lifestyle education. Our in-person and virtual workshops encourage healthy food choices and physical activity, and, provide “how-to’s” on stretching food dollars.

NYCP provides support and know-how. We offer comprehensive case management and assistance in accessing public benefits and resources.

NYCP serves the City. For those unable to reach our brick-and-mortar facilities, we deliver critical resources through our mobile units and community partners.
As a result of persistent inflation in food and housing costs, and the expiration of pandemic-era benefits expansions,

1.7 million food insecure New Yorkers receive SNAP* benefits each month.  
1 in 4 New York children are considered food insecure.

New York Common Pantry served 32% more people in 2023.

*SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program, is the cornerstone of the nation’s safety net and nutrition assistance programs, providing assistance to millions of eligible low-income people.

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Food is a fundamental right.

In 1948, the United Nations created a Universal Declaration of Human Rights which affirmed that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food....” New York Common Pantry takes this commitment further. We believe that access to food — healthy food, not empty calories with little to no nutritional value — is a basic human right. This is a core value of our organization. Whether in our Choice Pantry program (where guests receive fresh, seasonal, locally-sourced produce in addition to shelf-stable groceries), or our senior nutrition program (which provides healthy foods to individuals with low incomes who are 60+ years of age), or in our Hot Meals program (which serves nutritionally-balanced hot meals and brown bag lunches to our unhoused guests), we take pride in offering healthy, culturally-relevant food options to everyone in the community who needs assistance.

Connection, understanding, and support create stability.

New York Common Pantry takes the time to listen, to empathize, and to discover what each of our guests needs. Case managers meet one-on-one with guests to learn about the specific conditions (and needs) of their households to discover how NYCP can best support them. Where appropriate, we assist with applications for public benefits such as SNAP, Medicaid, Social Security Supplemental Income and rental arrears. Sometimes it takes time to build a guest’s trust. This may not happen on the first visit, but it’s our calling. We offer our assistance every step of the way. NYCP is excited to have returned all of our services back indoors as of March, restoring privacy and intimacy for the guests we counsel. This also has reestablished a sense of community among our guests, who now can gather inside for a hot meal and catch up with friends from the neighborhood.

“I can taste the quality of the food I get at New York Common Pantry.”

Elisheva (Ellie) Braverman grew up in New Jersey and moved to New York City where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The New School. In addition to auditioning for parts and acting as a movie and television extra, Ellie has started a small clothing recycling business to support herself. To hone her job skills, she recently completed an Exodus transitional degree course, where she learned about NYCP. Ellie is a Choice Pantry member and participates in our Farm Share. She especially loves the quality and variety of the fresh produce. NYCP is helping Ellie make ends meet while she looks for full-time work.
“Nutrition education and food access can impact a family’s lifestyle and future.”

Wendy Rodriguez has worked at NYCP for nearly three years. Originally from Honduras, she resides in the South Bronx. She started at NYCP as an intern with the Live Healthy! program while earning her BS in Dietetics, Foods and Nutrition from Lehman College. As a Public Health Nutritionist, Wendy leads the Recipe Club and researches healthy and culturally-appropriate recipes. She is involved in Food MD, a fresh produce prescription program to reduce food-related chronic diseases, and the Farm Share program which has grown from 10 participants to a monthly average of 130+ participants within a few years!
A long-term commitment yields meaningful results.

New York Common Pantry is a consistent presence in the most under-resourced communities in NYC. We meet people where they are, acting to support them in their journey toward self-sufficiency. With more than 40 years of demonstrable results, our innovative approach to solving food insecurity is anchored in a whole-person approach which aims to improve economic stability and overall health.

Demand for our services has steadily continued to rise. We served 32% more individuals this year compared to last year, including many who have never accessed emergency food aid before. NYCP’s understanding of these communities enables us to better serve them and allows us to pivot when neighborhoods change or emergencies happen. We do all of this while providing respectful, individualized support for each of our guests.

Caring neighbors are a powerful resource.

Volunteers are an integral part of NYCP. They bring a vital sense of community spirit to our locations while helping us save millions of dollars in labor costs. Volunteers work across our programs to prepare, sort, and distribute food for those who need it most. In FY23, our volunteer program involved nearly 13,000 New Yorkers donating their time to help feed their neighbors. Many of our most engaged Board Members and generous supporters were originally introduced to the work we do by participating as volunteers.

We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities at our Choice Pantry locations (Manhattan and the Bronx) as well as through Mobile Pantry, Live Healthy!, and our new Food Storage and Distribution Hub. “The Hub” can host up to 100 volunteers at a time and is a great way for our corporate partners to provide a day of service for a large group.

“Living and giving — that’s my life. After a volunteer shift at NYCP, I know I helped people.”

Vicky Kess is a spry 79-year-old. Growing up in Williamsburg, Brooklyn in a civic-minded family, she moved to the Upper East Side after college and never left. Vicky, an MBA and CFA, spent 45 years on Wall Street in the research sector of money management. She began volunteering at the Pantry in 2008 after retiring. Her Thursday mornings are spent at the Choice Pantry in East Harlem and she leaves with a sense of satisfaction because she’s giving back. “Part of taking care of myself has given me the opportunity to help others.”
667,734 guests served and supported

$16.6 million spent on programs

31,185 volunteer hours leveraged
A bigger base helps meet the increase in need. Persistent inflation, an increase in asylum-seekers, and lasting COVID-related economic instability have exacerbated the ongoing food insecurity crisis. In response, we acquired and are renovating a 23,500 sq. ft. warehouse and office space in Hunts Point, Bronx we call “The Hub.” Our new space boasts bulk storage for nearly 600 pallets of food, expansive refrigeration for fresh produce and dairy products, and a large freezer. The savings from bulk purchasing allows us to buy additional food and provide more case management support. The Hub also features space for the expansion of our senior nutrition program and the production of engaging, online cooking demonstrations that provide nutrition information and tips for low-cost, healthy cooking. It also allows us to host large volunteer groups donating their time to pack Pantry packages. Having double the storage space and hosting more volunteers should enable us to serve double the number of families with nutritious food by 2028.

The Hub

23,500 sq. ft.
warehouse & office space

storage for nearly 600 pallets of food

capacity to host 100 volunteers
Connections allow us to make deeper inroads.

NYCP is creating a comprehensive network to meet the continuous demand for food throughout New York City. Our East Harlem and Bronx Choice Pantries remain central to our mission — visitors are encouraged to be active in their food selection, meet with case managers, and participate in year-round nutrition education activities. Our newly opened Bronx service site at 788 Southern Boulevard has increased access to our senior supplemental nutrition program, our nutrition education classes, and an affordable farm-to-community program.

To provide resources for those beyond our brick-and-mortar sites, NYCP engages in vital partnerships with nearly 250 community-based organizations who share our passion and commitment to providing solutions to the challenges our communities face. Our collaborators include social service agencies, hospitals, senior and veteran centers, schools, settlement houses, and community centers. These mutually beneficial relationships strengthen communities and help bring services to more areas across the City. Additionally, our Mobile Pantry program provides our food aid and social service support directly to underserved neighborhoods.
Belief powers everything we do — driving our past achievements and propelling us toward a better future.

New York Common Pantry’s deep, long-term commitment and dedication to the communities we serve has earned the trust of our guests, volunteers, partners, and donors, without whom we could not fulfill our mission. Together, we’ve had an incredible FY2023. New York Common Pantry partnered with nearly 250 community-based organizations to extend our reach across the City. We engaged 13,000 hard-working, dedicated volunteers to enable our food programs to run efficiently. The value of the 31,185 volunteer hours worked is approximately $992,000. The number of corporate volunteer groups increased by 53% this year, and with our new Hub space, we plan to host even more groups in the future.

As we look ahead, NYCP is evolving the way emergency food assistance is provided and we have set our sights high, to ultimately serve 20 million meals across every borough in NYC by 2028. Everyone — partners, volunteers, donors — who has helped us surpass previous milestones will be critical in helping us to accomplish these new goals.

“The humanity and dignity NYCP shows the community is inspiring.”

New York Common Pantry’s six-year partnership with Restaurant Associates (R/A) is founded on making an impact in local communities. When R/A, a chef-led, premier on-site dining and event catering provider, initiated a food rescue program to minimize food waste and feed hungry New Yorkers, NYCP became the ideal partner. R/A’s clients donate food which we repurpose into hot meals. R/A has provided food and service for NYCP special events, runners for our NYC Marathon team, and golf outing sponsorship. Most recently, CEO Ed Brown joined our Board, enhancing the depth of our partnership.
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:** $14.6 million

**Revenue**

- In-Kind: 37%
- Government: 23%
- Corporations and Foundations: 20%
- Individuals: 12%
- Events: 6%
- Other Sources: 2%

Includes sponsoring organizations, bequests, interest, and miscellaneous

$21.2 million

**Expense**

- Programs: 80%
- Management: 13%
- Fundraising: 7%

Cost per Choice Pantry Meal: $1.02

$20.8 million

*The information shown here was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. 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,
2023 Supporters!

We couldn’t do it without you! We appreciate the time you spend as a volunteer, organizing food drives, scheduling food rescue, partnering with us or providing financial support. We’re able to help so many due to your assistance. Thank you!

Volunteer Honor Roll

Our Honor Roll recognizes individuals, corporations and groups who have volunteered 100 hours or more.

**Corporations**
- Apple
- Bloomberg
- Centerbridge Partners
- Deutsche Bank
- Estée Lauder
- FINRA
- Goldman Sachs
- ING Financial
- Mizuho
- Moody’s
- Morgan Stanley
- OakTree Capital
- Old Navy/GAP
- PIMCO
- Ralph Lauren
- Restaurant Associates
- TJX
- UBS
- Viking Global
- Wells Fargo

**Individuals**
- Nikki Allen
- Helen Biloudeau
- Tim Boehs
- Rose Campos
- Shanquel Carabello
- Zhao Liang Chen
- Roger Correia
- Fiona Cousins
- Vijay Deo-Singh
- Wendy Divack
- Emma Doctor
- Andy Dsida
- Michael Fleuter
- Alex Friedman
- Jessica Gera
- Anna Song
- Toby Greenfield
- Barbara Hall
- Ayun Halliday
- Patricia Hammarth
- Mark Holmen
- David Hopkins
- Terry Iyeki
- Michelle Jones
- Frances Jordan
- Vicky Kess
- Darlene Lee
- Maita Lockhart
- Nola Magno
- Matt Mandel
- Greg McArdle
- Ann Moore
- Takeya Neal
- Bryan Ngo
- Jerry Nurse
- Sevda Polite
- Simone Posehn
- Monica Rounds
- Sabrina Roze
- Aisha Sadiq
- Vince Sgambati
- Lydell Tyson
- Suzanne Urich
- Mary Vachris
- Marianne Waldow

**Organizations**
- Democracy Prep Harlem High School
- Horace Mann School
- The Heschel School
- MV4NY
- St. Ignatius School
- Special Citizens, Future Unlimited
- The Sugar Hill Mennonites

Donors

**Bread and Butter**

Bread and Butter Membership recognizes individuals who make an annual contribution of $10,000 or more.

- Sherrell Andrews and Robert Kuhbach
- Thad and Debra Davis
- Paul and Caitlin Emery
- Didi Fenton-Schafer
- Michael Fisch
- Candice K. Frawley and John Frawley
- Bruce Karpati and Allison Gault
- Annie and Ben Huneke
- Christina and Leonard Li
- Jock and Anne P. MacKinnon
- Stacie and Vivek Melwani
- Susan L. Merrill and Tom W. Faneuff
- Paul and Sandra Montrone
- Sara Moss and Michael Gould
- Michael Nachman and Ruth Horowitz
- Jeffrey A. and Marjorie Rosen
- Oscar Schafer
- Gaurav and Elizabeth Seth
- Wendy A. Stein and Bart Friedman
- Mattias and Katie Stitch
- Veronica and Michael Stubbs
- Margaret Sung and Michael Schmidtberger

**$50,000 – 74,999**
- Michael G. Fisch
- Jock and Anne P. MacKinnon
- Jared Samet and Joel Spolsky
- Didi Fenton-Schafer and Oscar Schafer
- Margaret Sung and Michael Schmidtberger

**$25,000 – 49,999**
- Clark R. Smith Family Foundation
- Thad and Debra Davis
- Robert and Barbara Friedman
- Leonard and Judy Lauder
- Sara Moss and Michael Gould

**$10,000 – 24,999**
- Alpern Family Foundation, Inc.
- John Brewer
- Joseph Cabrera
- Lisa and David Carnoy
- Peter L. Chapin and Stephanie Ackler
- Elaine Clark
- Fiona Cousins
- Scott Crawford and Jamie Levy
- Deeds Foundation
“Knowing every dollar feeds a hungry New Yorker is more important than ever.”

Didi and Oscar Schafer are dedicated, long-time supporters of New York Common Pantry. Didi’s commitment began more than 30 years ago when she joined the Board of Directors, serving in multiple roles and being honored for her exemplary community service to our organization. Their shared passion for helping the communities we serve inspired them each to become founding members of Bread and Butter, a committed group of NYCP’s top supporters. Didi and Oscar volunteer in the Pantry, and they especially love how NYCP supports families during the holidays with meals and children’s gifts.
At UBS, a core part of the firm’s culture is volunteering through meaningful service to make an impact in the communities where they live and work. The company sends volunteers regularly to New York Common Pantry to help guests select their produce and shelf-stable groceries on tablets for our Choice Pantry, and to prepare and serve hot meals. UBS volunteers recount witnessing firsthand how food insecurity and inflation are impacting our neighbors, and leave feeling they truly made a difference.

“We truly serve the community when we partner with NYCP.”

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Kronthal Family Foundation  
Raegan and Robert Lange  
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Jon G. Zylman  
We express our heartfelt appreciation to the hundreds of donors who gave food, toys, and cash contributions in amounts less than $1,000 and regret that space limitations prevent our listing each name in this report. Thank you all!

### Community Partners

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

### Major In-Kind Donors

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Daisy Condos  
The Dalton School  
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Democracy Prep Pathways Middle School  
Dwight School  
EY (Restaurant Associates)  
The Hewitt School  
The Heschel School  
The Heath School  
The Windward School  
Trevor Day Lower School  
Trini Delite  
Union Settlement — Meals on Wheels  
Veggie Grill  
WhatIF Foods
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.

NYCommonPantry.org
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New York Common Pantry 2023 Leadership  As of August 2023

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“New York Common Pantry takes a burden off people who can’t afford food on their own.”

Luis Reyes, retired now at 75, has lived on Hoe Avenue in the Bronx for the past 48 years. He proudly became a US citizen in 2012. When NYCP’s Hoe Avenue Pantry opened in 2017, Luis was one of the first to sign up. He says NYCP has been good to his family and the entire community. Luis acts as a good-will ambassador in the neighborhood, telling everyone about NYCP.

LUIS REYES
NYCP Guest • Choice Pantry Bronx
(pictured with staff member Jose Rivera)