



Blanca M. and her son Sebastian at the Farm Share with NYCP's Jenny Coraisaca

FEELING THE IMPACT OF LOSING FEDERAL FUNDING

As part of our whole-person approach to address the root causes of food insecurity and to reduce chronic disease, New York Common Pantry (NYCP) offers our Live Healthy! nutrition education program (LH!) for low-income families to learn how to stretch their food dollars, eat healthier, and lead more active lives. Last year, more than 22,000 people participated in Live Healthy! programs. But with the recent approval of the Budget Reconciliation Bill, our Live-Healthy! Program is slated to be defunded entirely.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been the foundation of US food assistance for decades. For every \$1 invested in its nutrition education program, SNAP-Ed, up to \$10.64 can be saved in future healthcare costs.¹ Live Healthy! participant Blanca M. is a perfect example. Through participation in nutrition workshops, cooking classes, and our farm share, Blanca learned about health benefits in nutrients, food portions, and ways to combine different fruits and vegetables to make delicious, nutritious meals. Blanca's daily routine now incorporates walking and counting her steps. Live Healthy! has benefited Blanca and her family in many ways, but perhaps the most significant change is that she no longer has hypertension and was able to stop taking medication for it.

These federal cuts leave us and our guests struggling. We are looking to our supporters to fill our widening budget gap.

¹ USDA, SNAP-Ed Website, <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/framework/components/lt17>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Lines and lines of people outside and inside. More people requesting services, with fewer to go around. Fewer government funds to purchase food and cuts to SNAP and Medicaid mean food-related chronic diseases rise and care wanes.

This is what we face with Congress' passage of the Budget Reconciliation Bill. Put simply -- it will leave our already vulnerable communities scrambling to support themselves and their families.

These are not exaggerations. Many organizations, including the Congressional Budget Office, have cited that the hundreds of billions of dollars in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts will leave tens of millions of working families without access to the nutrition they need. In New York City alone, 1.7 million residents receive SNAP benefits each month and more than 66% of our existing Pantry guests are receiving or are eligible for SNAP benefits. They have been relying on us while receiving benefits; our Pantry guests will need us even more as their SNAP dollars are minimized or lost entirely. All of the people who are losing these resources will need to find alternative sources of food.



Lines of people waiting for food at our East Harlem Pantry.



**WITHOUT SNAP AND MEDICAID
BENEFITS, MORE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO
COME TO NYCP FOR HELP**



How will people feed their families without government assistance?

They will have to come to food pantries and soup kitchens like ours.

The loss of Medicaid benefits will leave hundreds of thousands uninsured and without access to healthcare. Roughly 77% of our Bronx Pantry members and 92% of

our East Harlem Pantry members are receiving or are eligible for Medicaid benefits. To take care of themselves, people will have to make the impossible choice between going to receive healthcare services, paying rent or buying food. As a parent, I cannot imagine having to make those kinds of decisions for my family, for my children.

Over the past 45 years, New York Common Pantry has become the trusted pillar of strength and beacon of hope that our neighbors will turn to in these difficult times. The hardships New Yorkers will now face will lengthen our lines -- giving us more mouths to feed and families to counsel -- even as we experience our own budget cuts due to this Bill.

I thank you for the unwavering support you have provided over these many years. We couldn't have helped families all across the city without you. So I need to ask for your help again. Now more than ever your neighbors -- and we -- need you. We ask that if you are able to do more to help at this critical time -- with a monetary donation or an extra volunteer shift -- we would be grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Grimaldi".

Stephen Grimaldi
Executive Director

MEET OUR GUEST

LOURDES M.



"What I liked was learning about the portions that we were supposed to consume and using natural ingredients. With a few different vegetables, we learned how to make a healthy meal."

Lourdes has lived in the Bronx for 15 years. She was drawn to New York Common Pantry's Live Healthy! (LH!) program because of its focus on health and nutrition.

Through the nutrition education workshops, she learned about portion sizes and how to cook with more natural ingredients. Learning about what was good for the body helped her to eat more healthily and mindfully. Lourdes appreciates that the Farm Share program makes fresh produce more accessible and affordable, especially because the cost of produce is high. Lourdes enjoys the farmer's market tours because she is exposed to a large variety of fruits and vegetables, including new ones such as eggplant. Since participating in the LH! program, she has incorporated more fruits and vegetables in her diet.

NYCP'S LIBRARY



There is a special place at New York Common Pantry for books to keep learning alive and it's thanks to generous book donations we receive that are then redistributed to children and families. Doreen Morales, a dedicated Board member since 1990, serves as NYCP's Elementary School Partnership

Liaison. She has organized drives that become great service projects for students to build leadership skills and have a positive impact in their community. Thanks to Doreen's efforts — and the support of fellow Board members Elaine Clark and Janine Weisenbeck, and Advisory Council member Mike Fitzsimons — NYCP is offering our guests a wide variety of school supplies and educational materials, including fiction books, dictionaries, atlases, math workbooks, puzzles, and enrichment games.

OUR GUESTS LOVE LIVE HEALTHY!

"I love the dish you made. It's my first time trying chickpeas, and I never expected them to taste this good. Now I'm willing to try new foods. Thank you for bringing new food to us—I'll see you at the next workshop!"

"Thank you for providing us with fresh produce and eggs, especially during the egg shortage. Your program has helped us get through a difficult time."

"I feel like a professional chef."

"I am so happy I came today. I learned so much especially about a vegan diet and exercising. I really appreciate it all. You need to come to some community centers in Hunts Point where this info is really needed."

"I've been making overnight oats at home, and my kids love them!"

"I learned how to read how many sodium milligrams a product has, thanks to the classes."



3,445
VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED 12,400+
HOURS IN Q4 FY25

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AND HELP US CONTINUE
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FUN DAY ON THE GOLF COURSE

On a glorious Monday in June, the **Third Annual Dick Cattani Memorial Golf Outing** took place at the Tuxedo Club. The Golf Outing was held in partnership with Restaurant Associates (R/A) and the \$186,000+ raised benefited New York Common Pantry (NYCP). Dick Cattani was R/A's former CEO and NYCP's former Board member who was an avid supporter of the organization's mission.

After a competitive round of golf with 22 teams, the gorgeous weather lent itself to cocktails out on the terrace and lawn down by the lake. Boat rides were enjoyed by many. This year's tributes were plentiful and heartfelt. Nardyne Cattani toasted Ed Brown, R/A's CEO, and his outstanding work continuing Dick's legacy and forging his own successful journey for R/A. Additional remarks were given by Ed Brown, Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director of New York Common Pantry and Dick's three daughters, Danielle Cattani-Post, Dara Weiss and Dorian Cattani.

After dinner, Margie Sung, NYCP's Board Chair, and Chris Muldoon, Director of Golf for the Tuxedo Club, announced the competition's winners and the on-course skills contest awards.



Cattani family golfers from left to right: Lee Post, Danielle Cattani-Post, Brody Weiss, and Nardyne Cattani.

First place: Gotham Seafood. Players: John Calderon, Paul McKellar, Brad Trivax and Pete Zelinski. Second Place: CBRE. Players: Ed Baust, Joe Cabrera, Mike Gordan and Steve Gordan.

Individual prizes: Closest to the Pin (Women), Karla Rivera; Closest to the Pin (Men), Pete Zelinski; Longest Drive (Women), Jordan DeFina; Longest Drive (Men), Paul Emery, NYCP Board member; Closest to the Pin, Scott Attman; Closest to the Pin (Men), David Turner.