

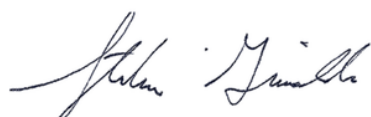
A NOTE FROM STEPHEN

New York Common Pantry stands by the core principle that everyone deserves dignity and the opportunity to improve their quality of life. Access to hot showers, clean clothing, resources and nutritious food are the bare necessities for survival. Before one can start to lead a more stable and fulfilling life, these needs must be met. Over the past year, we have seen significant changes across our programs that highlight the growing challenges and barriers New Yorkers face in meeting their basic needs.

As government funding and support continue to fall short in addressing hunger and poverty, the demand for our services has continued to rise, reflected in increases in both the number of individuals we serve and meals distributed. Since last July, New York Common Pantry's Mobile Pantry's program has added new distribution sites throughout New York City, resulting in a 50% increase in the number of individuals served and more than a 20% increase in meals distributed.

At the same time, we invested in improving on-site services. Last fall, New York Common Pantry's hygiene services were temporarily suspended due to a major renovation project. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the hygiene and restroom facilities at our East Harlem Pantry location were completely rebuilt with more shower stalls, new laundry machines and additional space for haircuts. We were proud to reopen these essential services at the start of the new year, restoring convenient access for hundreds of visitors.

As the affordability crisis deepens and emergency food providers experience mounting pressure from policy changes and funding reductions, New York Common Pantry remains committed to adapting and evolving to meet the changing needs of New Yorkers. Whether by expanding food access through our Mobile Pantry program or restoring the space we provide hygiene services, we will continue to invest in programs that help our neighbors facing hardship access resources they need with dignity.



Stephen Grimaldi
Executive Director



Shawn Smith, Project Dignity Coordinator, in the newly renovated laundry area.

AUGUST IS "MAKE-A-WILL" MONTH

August is National Make-A-Will Month, a powerful reminder to take a small but powerful step to put a plan in place for the people and values you love.

For many, including New York Common Pantry in their will is a natural extension of their commitment to continue supporting neighbors experiencing food insecurity and hardship. Legacy gifts of any size strengthen our work and sustain our mission for generations to come.

Join The Giving Table, and [create your will](#) today. Already included NYCP in your plans? Thank you. [Please let us know](#) so we can welcome you into The Giving Table.

MEET OUR GUEST: MIRIAM



"It's not just about giving food, but about helping us nourish ourselves better, and live healthier lives."

Miriam found support at New York Common Pantry's Live Healthy! nutrition education workshops and by receiving farm shares. The workshops taught her the nutritional value of specific foods, how to stretch her food dollars, and how to cook using all five food groups. Miriam learned recipes and new cooking methods, and she tried new foods. She began to incorporate more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains into family meals, and now her family is eating healthier and exercising too.

Miriam is featured in a video series that shares the experiences of New York Common Pantry guests, volunteers, and staff. To watch the videos, visit our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/4vhCEHS>

HELPING FAMILIES FEED EVERY MEMBER



Pets are more than companions – they are family. At New York Common Pantry (NYCP), we recognize that supporting a family's well-being means supporting the entire household. For anyone struggling to afford food, purchasing pet food can be an additional source of stress and financial strain. NYCP has been able to offer more pet food in addition to groceries, easing the burden for our Pantry guests. In the last year, we distributed approximately 20,000 pounds of pet food, primarily donated from a generous individual and a family foundation. The foundation's grant enabled us to establish the procurement, storage, and distribution systems necessary to begin providing additional pet food, also funded through its grant.

In addition, we have been providing Pantry guests with pet toys, collars, leashes, and more through our partnership with Animal Farm Foundation. New for this fiscal year, the NYC Council is launching the city's first-ever pet food pantry pilot program and NYCP secured \$40K to expand our Pet Pantry services to Brooklyn and the Bronx. By receiving pet food from NYCP, families can keep their pets and preserve their limited funds for food and other essential expenses, including rent, healthcare, and utilities.



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