



NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the new name of the Yorkville Common Pantry? New York Common Pantry

Why did YCP change its name? The Yorkville in our name confused many people, including donors and service partners. It did not describe where we were located or where we did our service or where our clients came from.

Why was the word "Yorkville" in our name originally? The Pantry was founded in 1979-80 by a group of individuals representing a number of different churches and synagogues in the Yorkville neighborhood of New York City, the East 80's. They primarily served clients in that neighborhood at that time.

But we don't serve the whole of New York, do we?? Actually, we do. We serve clients from all five boroughs in our regular programs. Last year, we served people from 161 of the city's 200 zip codes. Volunteers come to us from all over the city. We are by far the largest food pantry in the city. Finally, when we responded to superstorm Sandy, we directly served Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

How does the new name carry our message? The first part - New York - establishes us as a citywide organization, one of the only pantries serving all five boroughs. The second part - Common Pantry - retains our name recognition and carries an intimate, personal feeling, appropriate for an organization that directly serves the consumer of the food.

What are some features of the new logo? The shade of blue is an enriched version of our original color. The rectangular grid containing the words "Common Pantry" looks like pantry shelving. The circle with the crossed spoon and fork references the cutlery hidden in our old logo, while also graphically relating to food. The cutlery is also shaped into a "plus" sign, indicating we provide food *in addition to* a variety of other services, such as income and benefits counseling, nutrition education, cooking classes, showers, laundry and haircuts.

How many volunteers does the New York Pantry need to do its work? The Pantry fills over 11,000 volunteer spots annually to unload food deliveries, bag produce, distribute pantry packages, and serve breakfast and dinner. Volunteers provide almost 50% of our labor hours, making our food dollars go further.

How much food does the New York Common Pantry give away? We project that we will give away 2.3 million meals this year. Each week our Pantry serves about 1500 families. We take in and give out about 10,000 pounds of fresh produce each week.

Where does the food come from? Some food is donated or purchased through the Food Bank for New York City, which gets its food from government and corporations. We purchase from New York state farmers and wholesalers. City Harvest and local grocers donate food. Finally, a smaller percentage of our food is given to us by food drives at schools and houses of worship. We need cash for most of our food, because we insist on nutritional balance, freshness and quality, and so do not simply use what is available for free.

I came as a volunteer today with a group; how can I arrange to come on my own or bring a different group?

Call Jen Winter at [917.720.9710](tel:917.720.9710) or email her at jwinter@nycommonpantry.org

How can I find our more about the Pantry, and how can I contribute? Please visit our website www.ycp.org or www.nycommonpantry.org