



The Pantry Press

Yorkville Common Pantry

8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029 917-720-9700 www.ycp.org

Spring 2011

How Donated Food Gets to YCP... *A Transportation Story*

Yorkville Common Pantry depends on food donations from local schools, religious organizations, and individuals to help feed thousands of clients and their families each year. In 2009-2010, YCP received \$1.3 million in donated food from dozens of generous neighborhood institutions and friends which YCP combines with large deliveries of food staples provided by suppliers such as the Food Bank for New York City, City Harvest and various government agencies.

While big donations from large-scale providers like the Food Bank for New York City are delivered directly to YCP in large commercial trucks on a weekly basis, all other food donations are transported in YCP's own delivery van and brought to our pantry operations on East 109th Street every day. The person who makes this system work is YCP staff member, Tommy Robinson.

Two months ago, generous grants from the Hyde and Watson Foundation and ING Financial Services made it possible for YCP to purchase a new delivery van with larger cargo capacity just as our former delivery vehicle was encountering mechanical problems from 15 years of non-stop use. During that time, it is estimated that Tommy Robinson completed over 12,000 trips to New York City food donors, transporting approximately one million pounds of essential food to YCP's location.

In the late fall, prior to the big holidays, Tommy averages between 7 to 9 pick ups and deliveries daily, strategically planning his route from lower Manhattan to midtown and ending with destinations uptown before arriving at YCP. Tommy and the YCP van link thousands of food donations with thousands of New York City residents in need.



YCP van driver Tommy Robinson (right) with a volunteer unload food from the new delivery vehicle.

New York State Farmers Grow Fresh Produce for YCP



Farmer John Glebocki of Goshen, New York in his fields.

Providing as much fresh produce to our clients as possible has been a priority for Yorkville Common Pantry recently. A partnership with J. Glebocki Farms of Goshen, New York, has grown to be one of YCP's primary sources.

The arrangement began with *GrowNYC*, a New York City non-profit that runs a program to connect locally-based farms with urban buyers and markets. Today, YCP orders a variety of fresh produce from Glebocki Farms for its food pantry, nutrition education classes, and hot meal program.

The Glebocki family began farming one hundred years ago, gradually shifting from single crop production (onions) to a diverse mix of crops with

more than 160 varieties of produce including lettuce, radishes, turnips, squash, pumpkins, cilantro, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, peppers, basil, mint, strawberries and green beans.

YCP is partnering with a second New York State farmer, Dagele Brothers Produce, who operate with Florida-based, Roth Farms to achieve an extended growing season. This enables YCP to continue providing fresh produce to clients throughout the winter months.

As YCP's partnership with J. Glebocki Farms and Dagele Brothers Produce continues to develop, it is wonderful to see YCP's clients enjoy the benefits of delicious, fresh produce.

YCP Benefit 2011

Celebrating 30 Years of Service to the Hungry



Reverend Jessica Anschutz (left) and Reverend Betsy Ott (right) of Park Avenue United Methodist Church received the Helene Abraham Volunteer Community Services Award on behalf of their congregation.



From left to right: Award recipients Doreen Morales and Jeffrey Zurofsky, with YCP Board Member Antonia Abraham and YCP Executive Director Stephen Grimaldi.

YCP's 30th Anniversary Benefit set a record, raising more than \$300,000 net income from generous friends, which will cover costs for our food distribution program, case management support for clients seeking benefit enrollment, homeless services, and nutrition education for our clients. 240 guests enjoyed a gourmet culinary experience at the newly-opened venue, *riverpark: a Tom Colicchio restaurant*. Rosanna Scotto, co-host of *Good Day New York* on Fox 5, was the Master of Ceremonies. The evening featured a silent auc-

tion, raffle prizes and a live-auction conducted by special guest Canedy Knowles of the improvisational group *Chicago City Limits*.

YCP honorees included Doreen and Larry Morales and Park Avenue United Methodist Church, recipients of the Helene Abraham Volunteer Community Service Award. The award was presented by Helene Abraham's granddaughter and YCP Board Member, Antonia Abraham. Jeffrey Zurofsky, noted restaurateur and co-founder of *wichcraft* and *riverpark*, received YCP's Community Partner Award.



John H. Boyles, ING Financial Services LLC, CEO, (right) along with YCP Board Member, Elaine Clark (left) and guests enjoy dinner at our 30th Anniversary Spring Benefit.

Thank you for your past support... we can't do it without you!

To make a donation please visit our website at www.ycp.org or call 917-720-9707.

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Did you know?

- This past Thanksgiving, YCP provided over 2,600 turkeys to pantry families and served Thanksgiving dinner to 393 homeless people.



YCP clients enjoy Thanksgiving 2010 dinner.



School children with donated food items for YCP.

- YCP's "Souper Bowl" Food Drive in January 2011 brought in over 6,500 cans of soup! Fourteen schools participated.