

Yorkville Common Pantry



2009 Annual Report

Yorkville Common Pantry

Mission Statement

The Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) is dedicated to reducing hunger while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. YCP champions the cause of the hungry through food pantry and meal distribution programs, nutrition education, basic hygiene services, homeless support, and related services. YCP's community-based programs focus on East Harlem and other underserved communities throughout New York City.

Sponsoring Organizations

Our 19 religious sponsoring organizations not only provide volunteers, Board members, funds, food and other donations, but further infuse our work with profound meaning and reward. We consider these organizations to be caring members of the extended YCP family, and feel very fortunate to have their dedication and involvement.

- The Brick Presbyterian Church
- The Church of St. Edward the Martyr
- The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola
- The Church of the Heavenly Rest
- The Church of the Holy Trinity
- Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Park Avenue Christian Church
- Park Avenue Synagogue
- Park Avenue United Methodist Church
- St. Stephen of Hungary
- St. James' Church
- St. Jean Baptiste Church
- St. Joseph Yorkville
- St. Thomas More Catholic Church
- St. Vincent Ferrer Church
- Temple Emanu-El
- Temple Israel of the City of New York
- Temple Shaaray Tefila
- The Unitarian Church of All Souls



Dear Friends,

As Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) enters its 29th year of service to our community, the challenges before us are greater than any year in our history. A recent survey conducted by the Food Bank of New York City found that 59% of food pantries and soup kitchens ran out of food sometime during the year; 47% of emergency food sites turned people away due to a lack of food or resources; and at least 1.3 million New York City residents use food pantries and soup kitchens.

At YCP, our overall meal count went up 19% this year, thus surpassing the 2 million meal mark for the first time in our history. Despite the incredible challenges posed by this burgeoning need, we managed to meet demand and not turn anyone away. We even expanded our pantry service area to address the growing needs of families in the 10039 and the 10031 zip codes that were not otherwise being served.

In the pantry program, we served 6,219 families and 14,503 individuals, an increase of 38% and 32% respectively, from the year before. Through our 24/7 YCP program, we served 1,674 families from outside of our eleven core zip codes, all of whom came to us either because other food providers were out of food or were located out of reach of their home. In every instance, we provided emergency food and/or a referral to a pantry closer to their home or accessible via public transportation. To our homeless and marginally housed clients, YCP served 80,000 hot and brown bag meals. The total number of meals served in our food pantry, 24/7 YCP and hot meal programs made YCP the largest single site community food provider in the State of New York.

While we served a huge amount of food this year, we remained focused on ensuring that our food is not only plentiful but meets high standards of freshness and nutrition. Thus, to the greatest extent within budgetary constraints, we have continued to provide milk, lean meat, fresh vegetables and access to nutrition and cooking classes for adults and children. Last year, these nutritional cooking classes saw a 33% increase in enrollment, serving 200 clients a month and helping many more families to make more healthy choices and stretch their “food dollars” during these uncertain times. Due to the high demand and positive feedback of our clients, we will be expanding the number of classes in 2010 to offer more families these opportunities.

Last year we also began screening each pantry family using a comprehensive “benefits calculator”, determining their eligibility for an array of services and then helping them access those government benefits. Five hundred people accessed over a million dollars in government benefits at YCP last year, much of this accomplished fully on-site through the streamlined electronic Paperless Office System. We also continued to provide concrete services for the most vulnerable—4,274 showers, 933 haircuts, and 1,606 loads of laundry to homeless men and women.

In the new year, we will continue to expand our efforts to assist our clients with a “hand up” through referrals to jobs and government benefits, as well as teaching new skills and healthy dietary habits, while still providing weekly access to fresh food for our families, as well as 8 hot meals a week. We will work hard to secure more food donations than ever before, to partner with additional agencies to increase the services we can provide, and to raise more funds to offer healthy, nutritional food to the increasing numbers of neighbors in need.



I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the generosity of our many supporters, including individual donors and friends, private foundations, sponsoring organizations, elected officials, and public funders. Together, we are making a difference for many vulnerable New Yorkers.

Sincerely,
Stephen Grimaldi

This year has been one of transition for YCP, with Jeff Ambers concluding his generous service as Interim Executive Director upon the selection and arrival of our new Executive Director, Stephen Grimaldi. Stephen has brought new energy and dedication to the implementation of our programs, revitalization of our development efforts, and has marshalled the talents of our staff, board, neighborhood partners, and volunteers to best serve our clients during this time of increased need and decreased resources.

We have improved our communications with our supporters with a completely redesigned website, www.ycp.org, and have joined Facebook and Twitter to better engage with our constituents---clients, volunteers, donors and the general public. We are better connected than ever!

Our services are provided to our clients with dignity and respect through the dedicated, collaborative efforts of our staff and volunteers. YCP has only 19 full-time staff, and we are able to operate in such a cost effective manner because of the efforts of thousands of volunteers from our sponsoring organizations, local schools, corporations and other nonprofit entities. Last year, volunteers performed 63% of our labor hours, meaning the organization could apply the considerable monies saved to help fund our voluminous food purchases and client services.

This year, we cut costs in every possible way in order to serve our clients the most nutritious, wholesome food we could provide. We renegotiated and bid out contracts due to expire, investigated gas and electricity costs through independent brokers, and secured donated produce from farms. Food was collected and donated by schools, churches, synagogues and community partners, as well as by major providers like the Food Bank and City Harvest. To purchase additional required food at the lowest prices, YCP engaged wholesalers to actively bid each week.

By virtue of these efforts and the generosity of our supporters, YCP was able to provide life-sustaining, healthy meals throughout the YCP food programs at a food cost to YCP of only 73 cents. These savings have allowed us to purchase more food for distribution and to fund our nutrition and education classes.

Various neighborhood partners, both longstanding and new, helped to provide increased support services to meet our clients' needs. Our generous donors, in response to appeals, events and our highly successful spring benefit, provided critical additional financial support, despite the challenging economic conditions, to help us continue our longstanding philosophy of turning no client away. We are both grateful and proud of what YCP has been able to accomplish this year to serve our growing number of clients in need.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and our volunteers, our deepest thanks for your continued support of YCP.

Sincerely,
Sherrell Andrews
Chair, Board of Directors

Board of Directors

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Executive Director: Stephen Grimaldi



Lucy Borge (center) received the Silver Ladle Award in honor of 17 years of service on the YCP Board. She is congratulated by Board Chair, Sherrell Andrews and Executive Director Stephen Grimaldi on September 21, 2009.

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Board Members Retire

Three members of the YCP Board have retired this year. Lucy Borge served as Board chairman, and was a longtime member of the Development and Nominations committees, in addition to serving as editor of our Pantry Press newsletter and chairing many annual benefits. Helen Chapman previously received the Silver Ladle Award in honor of her extended record of service on the YCP Board on December 8, 2008. She stepped down from the YCP Board following her appointment as a Deacon at Brick Presbyterian Church, but promises to return to service at YCP in the future. Cheryl Bundy also retired after many years of dedicated service to the Board and as a volunteer.



Halana, a wife and mother of three children were happily living and thriving in Harlem. Suddenly devastation struck when her husband was shot and killed when an assailant robbed him on his way home from work. A couple of months later, Halana was laid off from her job due to budget cuts leaving her unable to afford food or rent. Fortunately, a parent from her children's school told her about YCP. She never thought in her life she would have to go to a soup kitchen. She was embarrassed and ashamed but had to do it for her family. Walking through the door of YCP for the first time the people were so nice and the place looked so beautiful, which she did not expect. Halana was able to get the food she needed from the pantry program. She was ashamed that she had to rely on YCP for food. It was humiliating and the hardest lesson for her was putting aside her pride for the sake of her kids. But she remembers the first time she came home from YCP with a bag from the pantry. She and her children gathered in the kitchen around the bag and were opening it like they were opening a Christmas present. Halana made sure her kids ate even though she sometimes went without.

YCP was able to help Halana receive food stamps and attending the nutrition education and cooking classes. The classes were very therapeutic for her. They helped her stretch her dollar and gave her the opportunity to meet other people in similar situations. YCP also referred Halana for counseling for her and for her daughter who is studying forensic science in college. Halana still has not found a steady job, but works as a maid, provides child care, braids women's hair and creates scarves to sell at Columbus Circle. Next year she will be attending the City College Teacher's Assistant program.

For 25 years Nilda took care of other people's children at the New York State Dept of Welfare. But she developed an illness three years ago requiring her to stop working for a while. After a diagnosis of lung cancer she was not permitted to return to her old job and was not well enough to get another one. She raised four children herself;

all completed high school and college and started families of their own. Her two sons entered the US Army and Nilda became an anchor for their families during active duty.



When she became too ill to work, her children did their best to look after her but their own employment situations were marginal despite their education. The entire Cruz family struggled, making difficult choices between paying rent, buying medicine for Nilda's cancer treatments, or feeding the family. One day, Nilda learned about Yorkville Common Pantry from a neighbor. She has been participating in the Friday pantry program ever since—never missing a week even when she was frail from chemotherapy. YCP not only feeds Nilda and her extended family; caseworkers were able to provide assistance through Mt. Sinai Medical Center for Nilda to receive continuing treatment for her cancer.

Nilda describes herself as a “fighter” and credits YCP with helping her have the resolve and the resources to contact elected officials. With effective counseling at YCP, she now receives a full range of entitlements for which she and her family are eligible. Her dream is to live long enough to see her youngest grandchild graduate from high school, a dream that seemed impossible three years ago, but now is within her reach.

2,002,996 Meals Served



YCP's Food Pantry Program is New York City's largest community based food pantry and is designed to meet the needs of our families by providing culturally appropriate and nutritionally-balanced food. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, YCP is able to distribute grocery packages to between 1,600 and 1,800 needy families. Our Friday Pantry distribution aims to meet the needs of our Senior Citizens and Disabled Pantry Members. Additionally our unique Saturday Pantry distribution is able to serve the working poor and those participating in education or training programs during the week. Volunteers prepare bags of groceries that provide each family member three meals for three days. A typical pantry package includes items such as unsweetened fruit juice, sugar-free cereal, 1% or skim shelf-stable milk, pasta, rice, low-sodium or no sodium canned vegetables, fresh produce, bread and frozen meat.

YCP Pantry workers see Pantry Members on a regular basis to screen for entitlements and/or benefits; assist with acquiring benefits such as Public Assistance or Social Security Supplemental Income or make employment referrals; and provide assistance with accessing the appropriate resources to prevent families from being evicted from their homes. Through unique collaborations with New York City's Human Resources Administration and other social service providers, YCP Pantry Workers are also able to directly process Food Stamps and Medicaid applications for our families on-site.

24/7YCP is an acute emergency food assistance program designed to meet the critical hunger needs of all families and individuals—regardless of which borough they reside -- at the moment they experience food insecurity. Open 365 days of the year, 24/7 YCP is able to provide emergency food assistance when other pantries are closed or are unable to provide food. Started in 2003 as New York City's only 24 hour emergency food program, 24/7 YCP has consistently provided emergency grocery packages, consisting of nine nutritious meals per person, to needy families. This service continues to be provided to needy families regardless of where they reside. On average 400 families are provided this service each month. 24/7 YCP also provides brown bag meals for homeless individuals when all other soup kitchens are closed—every day from 7:00PM to Midnight. Each month 1,200 brown bag meals are provided to individuals.

YCP's Programs

Project Dignity provides case management services to homeless individuals. The case manager provides counseling and referral services, working with up to 50 clients weekly to help them obtain housing, jobs, entitlements, substance abuse treatment or other medical and social services. Project Dignity's array of services is also designed to meet the most basic needs of YCP's clients— food, haircuts, mail service, laundry—as well as the larger, more challenging issues they face— long-term housing, health care, benefits and employment. The overall goal of the Program is to serve as a bridge back to health, well-being and self-sufficiency for our homeless and hungry clients.

YCP Hot Meal Programs serves breakfast Monday through Friday for 220 individuals (sometimes even more on pancake day!) and dinner on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for another 220 people. Our staff chefs prepare balanced meals with wholesome ingredients. Beyond providing nutritious food, the program offers participants a chance to sit, eat and socialize in a relaxing, safe and convivial atmosphere that may be the only reprieve from the stress of being homeless or living in poverty. Additionally, we partner with medical service providers to provide a range of medical screenings during meal programs. Breakfast is served Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 9:30AM and dinner is served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:30PM to 6:00PM.

CookShop classes are hands-on, interactive nutrition education workshops offered to Pantry Families to address the prevalence of diabetes and obesity in the Harlem community. YCP also offers Kids CookShop, a program specifically tailored to for children, on Saturdays. Nutritious and affordable foods are harder to come by than in many other communities, both causing and exacerbating this public health crisis. CookShop directly

addresses these issues, unquestionably linked to poverty and poor nutrition, by teaching participants how to make healthy and tasty food. Recipes include items distributed through our weekly Pantry Program, encouraging clients to use Pantry staples to create satisfying meals. Each recipe is taught in a step-by-step process whereby participants learn how to measure, clean and prepare the ingredients for cooking. A strong emphasis is placed on the nutritional value of each vegetable used, ensuring that workshop participants learn about the vitamins and minerals and their impact on healthy living and longevity.

By collaborating with the Mount Sinai Medical Center and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, YCP has been able to access health vouchers that are redeemable at the local Greenmarkets. After the CookShop class ends, clients walk to the Mt. Sinai Farmer's Market where they are able to meet with the farmers and purchase fresh produce using Mount Sinai's and the City's 'Health Bucks'.

*CookShop's curriculum is provided by FoodChange/Food Bank of New York

Volunteers

Number of Volunteer shifts worked at YCP 9,387

Number Volunteers by head count 1,439

Without the dedication and tireless enthusiasm of our volunteers, YCP could not provide its services. Volunteers are an integral part of our organization, and their contributions are invaluable and much appreciated. From helping with food deliveries to serving food at one of our meal programs, YCP offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. We also host a variety of group events for schools, companies, religious organizations, etc. In addition to on-site opportunities, there are also opportunities to help off-site.

Contact Gladys Ortiz,
Volunteer Coordinator at 917-720-9710 or gortiz@ycp.org

Volunteers provided 63% of the total labor hours needed to operate YCP's programs in 2008-2009. Thousands of individuals came to YCP last year to offer their help---from down the block in East Harlem to half a world away in Australia and Indonesia, and from all five boroughs of New York City and many states around the country. Dozens of corporations provide their employees to volunteer through workplace programs, among them: American Express, Bank of America, Deloitte, General Electric, Legg Mason, National Australian Bank, and Polo Ralph Lauren.

On-Site Opportunities

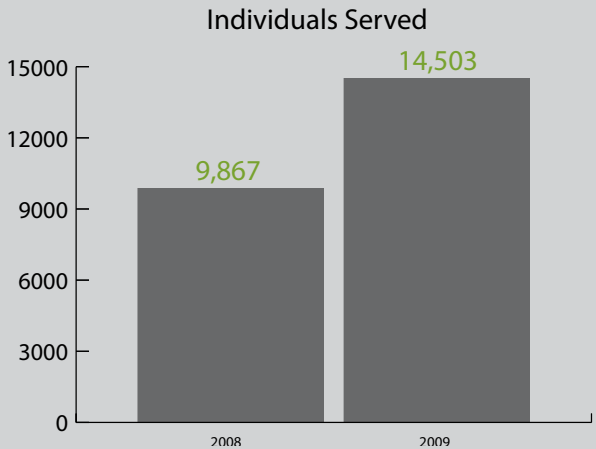
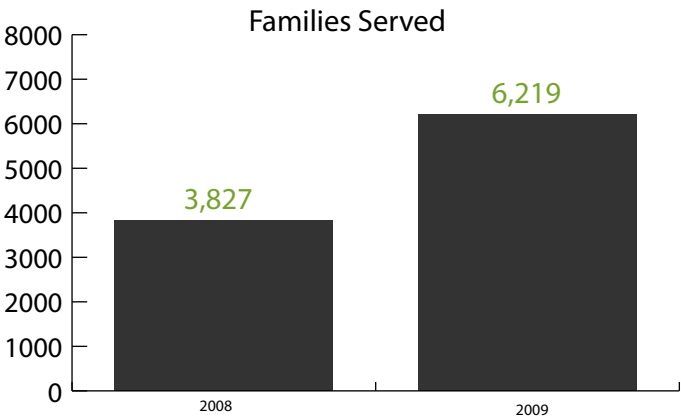
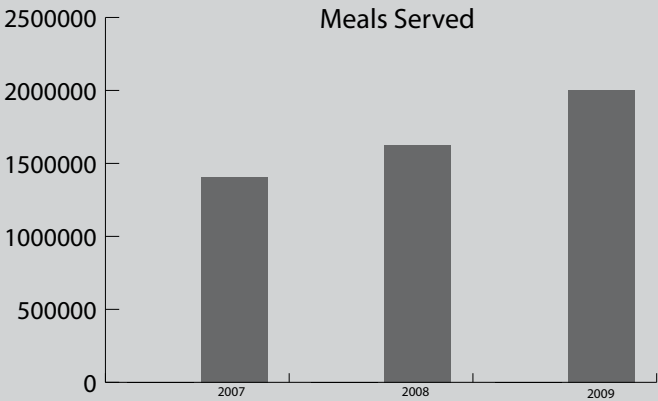
- Unload & shelve food from the delivery trucks.
- Pre-pack pantry bags for pantry distribution. (ideal for kids)
- Distribute grocery packages during our food pantry.
- Serve breakfast &/or dinner at our meal programs.
- Prepare meals and food packages for our emergency 2417 YCP food program.

Off-Site Opportunities

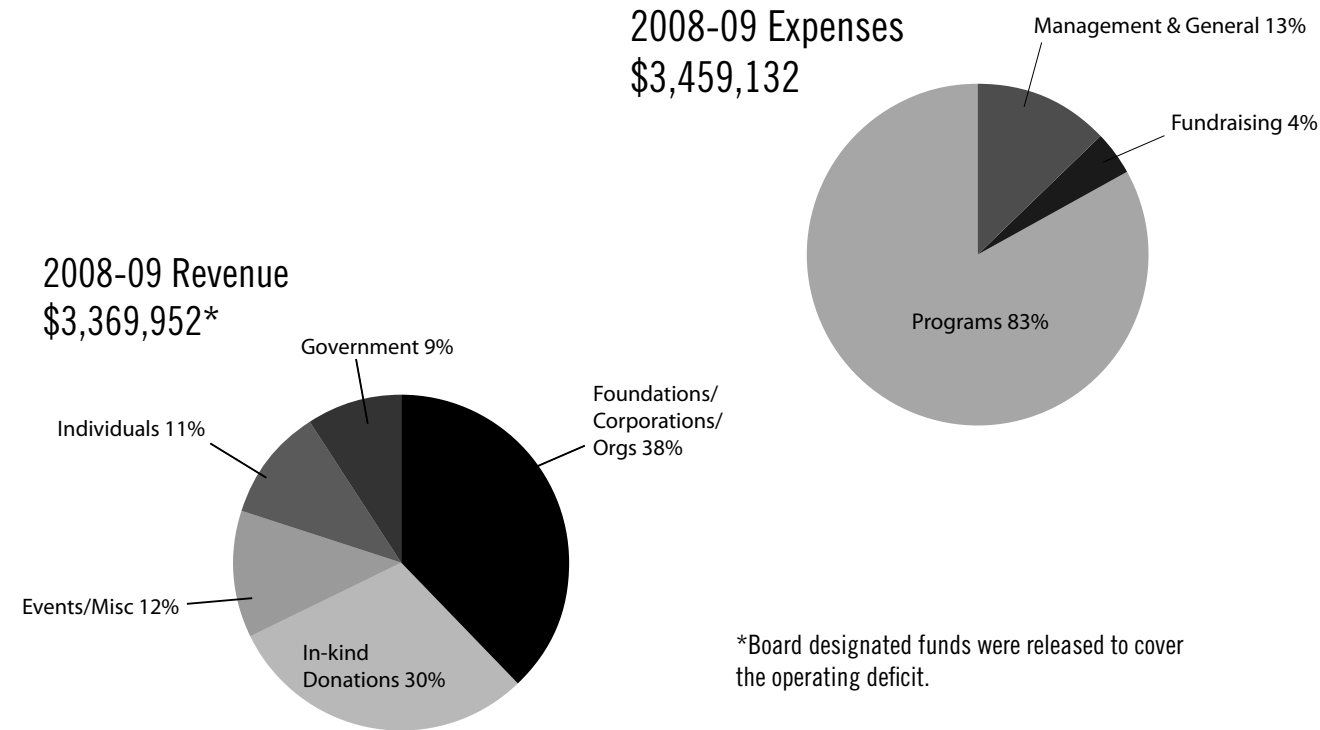
- Participate in one of our monthly food drives.
- Prepare sandwiches for our 2417 YCP Brown-bag program.
- Host a clothing drive for items such as coats, scarves, gloves.
- Invite YCP staff member to speak about our programs.
- Participate in one of our holiday related activities

Schools

Throughout the years we have built relationships with more than 130 public and independent schools---from nursery schools, elementary, middle and high schools, as well as colleges and universities. These school relationships continue to strengthen and expand the YCP family. Community service interns support our efforts and educate their peers about poverty and hunger. Groups from various schools organize food drives or donate toys, Easter baskets, books and clothing for YCP families. Their commitment is always inspiring and greatly appreciated.



Fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 (net of event expenses)



Net Assets for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 are \$5,073,625.

The above information was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. Audited financial statements are on file at Yorkville Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029. A copy of the annual report filed with the New York State Office of Charities Registration may be obtained on request from Yorkville Common Pantry.

Now More Than Ever....

Spring Benefit

On March 11, 2009, YCP held its annual Benefit at Asia Society. Guests enjoyed cocktails and through a Silent Auction bid on such items as wine and travel. Dinner, Awards ceremony and a Live Auction rounded out the evening. Award recipients in 2009 were The Brick Presbyterian Church and its Women's Association, The Mount Sinai Hospital, and Didi Fenton-Schafer who was presented with the Helene Abraham Award for exemplary community service given to a volunteer each year. The event was chaired by Didi Fenton-Schafer and co-chaired by Drucilla Haskin and Diane and Daryl Wilkerson and was the highest-grossing charity event in YCP's history.

Joint Schools Dances

YCP joined three other neighborhood charities to sponsor dances for middle school students during the school year. These events were enthusiastically attended and at the same time contributed a significant amount to YCP's programs.

Juilliard Jazz Orchestra Event

Friends of YCP gathered on October 16, 2008 to hear a program of contemporary jazz performed by students of the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra. Conductor Ted Nash led the Orchestra in a program of music by Andrew Hill, a 2008 New Jazz Master. Thanks to generous underwriting, the evening raised \$8,700 for YCP's programs.



You have made a **difference** for thousands of low-income New Yorkers, *reducing hunger* and **helping to provide** *needed services*. **Thank you.**

Corporations, Foundations and Organizations

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- Alpern Family Foundation
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- The Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation
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- TAS Foundation
- TEFAP
- Temple Emanu-el
- Temple Israel
- Temple Shaaray Tefila
- Toys R Us
- TransCare Corp.
- The Unitarian Church of All Souls
- United Way of New York
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Watson and Associates
- Whale Rock Capital Management
- World Wings International
- York Preparatory School
- Donald and Barbara Zucker Family Foundation



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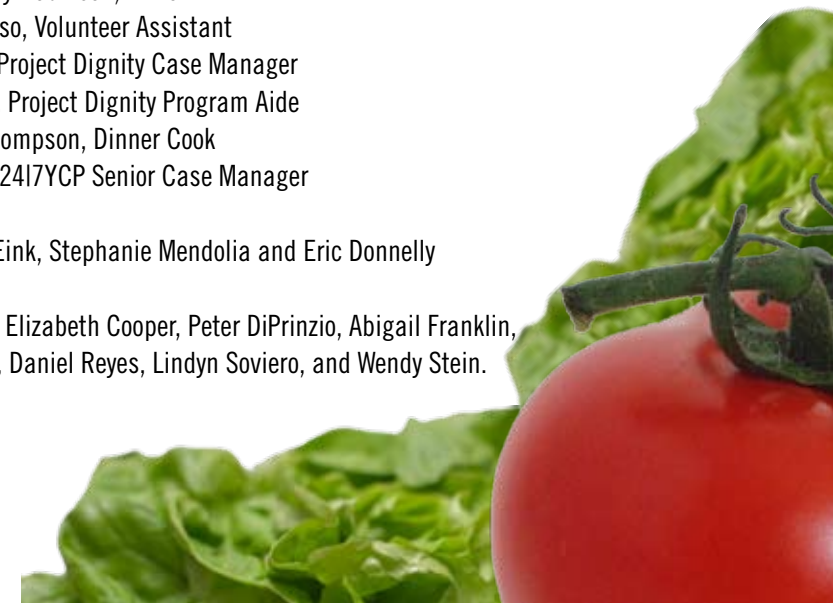


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Allan Brown, Operations Coordinator
Elisabeth Buchholz, Associate Director of Development
Sheila Corrales, Senior Pantry Case Manager
Ronald Francis, Operations Assistant
Abigail Franklin, Director of Development
Wendel Franks, Breakfast Cook
Lee Gardner, 2417YCP Program Aide
Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director
Colton Hubbard, 2417YCP Case Manager
Linda McKie, Kitchen Assistant
Juan Mendez, Facilities Coordinator
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Gladys Ortiz, Volunteer Coordinator
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