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### **City Harvest to Push Extra 1 Million Pounds of Food into Emergency Feeding Programs, Provide Safety Net for City's Working Poor**

New York, NY – In effort to counter New York City's critical emergency food shortage, City Harvest ([www.cityharvest.org](http://www.cityharvest.org)) today announced its commitment to push an additional 1 million pounds of food to emergency feeding programs over the next two months.

City Harvest's pledge follows months of severe food shortages crippling the city's soup kitchens and food pantries dependant on government support. In recent years, these programs have lost an estimated 12 million pounds of food due to a series of cutbacks and flat-funding of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). For the past 25 years, City Harvest has served as the link between local food and local need, relying on local food sources, private citizens, and corporations to rescue and deliver 20 million pounds of food each year.

Throughout the shortage, City Harvest has continued to supply 260,000 hungry New Yorkers with food each week. Now, as winter approaches, the demand for food is expected to rise as New Yorkers anticipate record-high heating bills. During this critical time, City Harvest will provide in two months an extra 1 million pounds of food to help soften the impact that many agencies are feeling as a result of the government cuts.

"At City Harvest, we're fortunate to have such strong local support. In light of the food shortage, we're even more determined to use our local resources and to provide a safety net for New York's hungry by increasing our November and December poundage by 25 percent," said City Harvest executive director Jilly Stephens.

The additional million pounds will consist of high-quality, shelf-stable foods, such as canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat, and shelf-stable milk; canned protein like beans, fish, meat, and peanut butter; and fresh produce items, including potatoes, yams, and yucca as well as hand fruits like apples and pears, sourced from local companies and delivered to food pantries and soup kitchens across the five boroughs.

Those interested in becoming a part of this campaign are welcome to make donations on City Harvest's secure website at [www.cityharvest.org](http://www.cityharvest.org) or call 917 351 8700