

FROM: CITY HARVEST  
575 Eighth Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018

Rubenstein Public Relations  
Telephone: (212) 843-9341  
Contact: Talia Mann  
[tmann@rubensteinpr.com](mailto:tmann@rubensteinpr.com)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CITY HARVEST FINDS DEMAND UP 15% AT NEW YORK CITY  
FOOD PANTRIES AND SOUP KITCHENS IN THIRD QUARTER,  
COMPARED TO LAST YEAR**

City Harvest to Deliver Over Eight Million Pounds of Much-Needed Food This  
Holiday Season

NEW YORK –November 13, 2009– City Harvest, the world's first food rescue organization dedicated to feeding New York City's hungry men, women and children, announced today that their network of emergency feeding programs of soup kitchens and food pantries in the five boroughs have reported that hungry New Yorkers visited them over 400,000 more times in the third quarter of this year compared to the third quarter of 2008. Currently, Fiscal Policy Institute estimates a real unemployment rate of 17% in New York City, which includes people who have given up on finding work and are underemployed -- 1 in 6 New Yorkers. This increase in unemployment is reflected in longer food pantry and soup kitchen lines. In data from 390 programs, City Harvest found:

- 62% of agencies are seeing an increase in visits to their program.
- Over half (59%) of agencies are seeing more visits by children, and 13% are seeing double the number of visits by children.
- Over half (56%) of agencies are seeing more visits by seniors, and 14% are seeing double the number of visits by seniors.
- The borough of the Brooklyn saw the largest increase with 27% more emergency food program visits overall.

City Harvest will rescue over 8 million pounds of food during their Harvest Season (October 15<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup>), more than 1 million pounds over their goal last year. Each week, more than 260,000 hungry New Yorkers rely on a soup kitchen or food pantry served by City Harvest.

“The recession’s aftershocks are still being felt in many communities in New York City, and new faces continue to be seen in lines at emergency feeding programs,” said Jilly Stephens, executive director at City Harvest. “In response, City Harvest is prepared to sustain increased food deliveries throughout the fall and winter, targeting additional deliveries to areas where the need is greatest,” she added.

The survey compared two 3-month periods, July 2008 – September 2008 and July 2009 – September 2009. The numbers are self-reported by the agencies. September 2009 is the most recent data available.

### **About City Harvest**

Now serving New York City for more than 25 years, City Harvest ([www.CityHarvest.org](http://www.CityHarvest.org)) is the world's first food rescue organization, dedicated to feeding the city's hungry men, women, and children. This year, City Harvest will collect over 25 million pounds of excess food from all segments of the food industry, including restaurants, grocers, corporate cafeterias, manufacturers, and farms. This food is then delivered free of charge to nearly 600 community food programs throughout New York City using a fleet of trucks and bikes as well as volunteers on foot. Each week, City Harvest helps over 260,000 hungry New Yorkers find their next meal.

City Harvest also addresses hunger’s underlying causes by educating individuals, families, and communities in the prevention of diet-related diseases, channeling a greater amount of local farm food into high-need areas, enhancing the ability of our agency partners to feed hungry men, women, and children, and supporting affordable access to nutritious food in low-income communities.

###