



Bio: Jilly Stephens, Executive Director

Jilly Stephens, Executive Director, leads City Harvest's efforts to fight hunger in communities throughout New York City. In addition to overseeing the organization's core work of food rescue, she has led City Harvest in its increased focus on providing fresh produce to hungry New Yorkers and the development and implementation of programs to address issues that contribute to hunger in New York City. Jilly joined City Harvest as Senior Director of Program Development in 2004, where she was key to the expansion of City Harvest's nutrition education efforts and launch of Fruit Bowl, which provides fresh fruit to preschoolers on an ongoing basis.

Over the past six years Jilly has put in place long-term initiatives designed to positively impact food systems in New York City while ensuring that the immediate needs of hungry New Yorkers are met with emergency food. Under her direction, City Harvest has increased its food rescue efforts to provide hunger relief to New York City at a critical time. In addition to food, the organization now delivers nutrition education to individuals, families, and communities to help them prevent and manage diet-related diseases, supports low-income communities seeking access to affordable nutritious food, channels a greater amount of local farm food into high need areas, and works to enhance the ability of City Harvest's agency partners to feed hungry men, women, and children.

In addition to her current role as City Harvest's Executive Director, Jilly serves on the Board of Directors of ActionAid, an international anti-poverty agency whose aim is to fight poverty worldwide. Prior to joining City Harvest, Jilly served as the Vice President of Program Operations at ORBIS International, a \$80+ million nonprofit organization dedicated to the elimination of avoidable blindness through hands-on surgical training and education. She helped create and lead an organization-wide strategic plan that called for the development of permanent blindness prevention programs in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India, China, and Vietnam. Collaborating with various governmental and nongovernmental institutions, Jilly was successful in establishing fully staffed, operational field offices in these five high-need countries.

To arrange an interview with Jilly Stephens, please call John McCook at 212-843-8365.