



City Harvest: Leading Hunger Relief Across NYC

City Harvest's work rescuing food for hungry New Yorkers is complemented by programs that address longer-term issues that surround hunger in New York City—educating individuals and families to make healthy dietary choices, increasing the capacity of our agency network to feed more people, and supporting access to affordable nutritious food, such as fresh produce, in low-income communities.

Emergency Food Rescue and Distribution

Using a fleet of green trucks, cargo bikes, and volunteers on foot, City Harvest collects high-quality surplus food from restaurants, Greenmarkets, wholesalers, grocers, farmers, and manufacturers, and redistributes it to a network of community food programs. These soup kitchens, food pantries, senior centers, daycares, shelters, and other agencies together help feed hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers each week.

Healthy Neighborhoods

City Harvest strategically focuses our resources on low-income communities where affordable, healthy food is not readily accessible and where residents often suffer from high rates of diet-related diseases like diabetes and obesity. Our *Healthy Neighborhoods* program envisions communities where nutritious food like fresh produce is available, affordable, and in high demand. We have identified communities with high rates of hunger and poverty for additional support—the South Bronx, the North Shore of Staten Island, and Bed-Stuy in Brooklyn. By channeling additional deliveries of free fresh food and other resources to these areas and by working closely with local residents, organizations, and community leaders to improve access to and demand for nutritious food, we are creating a model of a healthy, food secure neighborhood.

Nutrition Education

City Harvest's nutrition education programs provide individuals and families in low-income communities with knowledge to make healthy dietary choices. We offer Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters™, in which culinary and nutrition professionals teach cooking classes focusing on nutrition and food budgeting to New Yorkers at risk of hunger. City Harvest's Fruit Bowl introduces a regular supply of fresh fruit and low-fat milk to programs serving children combined with a unique nutrition education program designed to teach life-long healthy eating habits. Recognizing that senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, our Well Seasoned courses offer hands-on lessons in cooking, food safety, nutrition basics, and financial management.

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HarvestWorks

Fresh fruits and vegetables are in high demand at community food programs, and produce secured directly from farmers enhances the nutritional value of City Harvest's deliveries. Through HarvestWorks, we offer New York State growers incentives to harvest, pack, and deliver crops that might not be brought to market due to fluctuating prices and uncertain market demand. We also work with farmers at wholesale outlets and farmers markets within New York City to pick up produce that has not been sold at the day's end and would otherwise go to waste.

Kosher Community Project

City Harvest strives to improve the quality of life among low-income kosher observant seniors, immigrants, children, and families facing hunger through increased access to a wider variety of kosher food, while uncovering long-term solutions to hunger in communities with special food needs in New York City.

Agency Capacity Expansion

Many of the agencies City Harvest serves feed people every day on hunger's front lines but have few operational resources and struggle to stay afloat. They often face fundamental business challenges in data and financial management, customer service, and fundraising that prevent them from fully meeting the needs of their communities. These challenges can be difficult if not impossible to confront without assistance. Through our Agency Capacity Expansion program, we work with selected programs to strengthen their overall ability to serve hungry New Yorkers, making it possible for them to enhance their food services and, potentially, other social services that help clients transition from needing emergency food.

For more information about City Harvest, please call John McCook at 212-843-8365.