



**Celebrating
Our
Volunteers**



**annual
report
2004**



The energy and compassion demonstrated by Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) volunteers is beyond comparison, and we dedicate this 2004 Annual Report to them.

Twenty-four years ago volunteers from East Side churches and synagogues organized YCP and operated a food pantry for 30 families in the basement of Holy Trinity church. Today volunteers from religious institutions, schools, and the business community assist our 27-person staff in operating five emergency food programs which provided 1,125,805 meals to over 15,000 low income New Yorkers in the past year.



We are extremely proud to report that 2417 YCP, New York City's first emergency food program that never closes, completed its first year of operation providing 108,897 meals to over 10,000 people. Needless to say, it would have been impossible to distribute 7,371 packages of food to these families without countless volunteers preparing them throughout the year.

Our 2417 YCP program distributed food to people experiencing food emergencies, while our other Pantry programs provided ongoing supplemental food and support services to families and individuals who frequently had to choose between paying their rent and buying food. The high cost of living in NYC, combined with high unemployment and low wage jobs, resulted in our distributing more food in the past year than ever before. We were able to respond to this increased demand for food assistance with the help of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of our loyal donors.

Sadly, hunger is not likely to disappear in the near future in our city.

Fortunately, neither will the commitment and compassion of our volunteers and our donors. We are forever grateful for their outstanding service and their financial support.

With sincerity,

Handwritten signatures of Jeff Ambers and Linda E. Holt in black ink.

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Executive Director

Linda Holt
YCP Board Chair

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- Jeffrey Ambers | Executive Director

\$3.2 Million to YCP!

Special thanks to the Robin Hood Foundation

We were honored when Robin Hood chose the Yorkville Common Pantry to be the recipient of the “Be Robin Hood” auction package at their spring gala this year. At the gala, nine one-of-a-kind experiences – for example, the opportunity to play tennis with Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras – are sold to the highest bidder. The final auction package offers bidders the opportunity to help one of the Robin Hood grant recipients improve its service by funding a significant project.

According to Robin Hood staff, YCP’s excellent track record in running emergency food programs made it a compelling choice for the “Be Robin Hood” designated organization, especially with our pressing need to repair our facility’s deteriorating conditions in order to better accommodate the growing need for our services.

At the benefit, the YCP package ignited passionate bidding, with donors vying for the opportunity to “rebuild YCP.” When “going, going, gone!” was finally called, four donors had matched each other’s bids of \$800,000 – raising an astounding total of \$3.2 million for YCP!

We are deeply indebted to Robin Hood and their generous donors for making our dream come true. We also thank their wonderful staff for helping us plan for an exciting future for YCP.

As we rebuild our facility, ongoing fundraising efforts to support all YCP programs continue.

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PANTRY P

Poverty and hunger persist in NYC despite the affluence of many. In response, YCP programs serve families and individuals throughout East Harlem and neighboring communities.

Except for our case management services, all our programs take place in the basement of our building. The space is constantly rearranged, accommodating everything from food delivery, food storage and pantry distribution, to our breakfast and dinner programs, shower, haircut and laundry services, and even our 12-bed overnight shelter.

Ms. D is a 35 year old single mother of an eighteen-month-old son. Ms. D was referred from 24/7 YCP to our Saturday Pantry Program. She recently secured part-time employment, and will supplement her income with Pantry food, allowing her to meet the nutritional needs of her family while freeing up resources for rent and other necessities. Ms. D is working with a Pantry case manager, who is helping her to access childcare services while providing supportive counseling to identify other areas for assistance.



Thursday & Saturday Pantry Every Thursday and Saturday, YCP relies on our dedicated cadre of volunteers to package and distribute nearly 700 grocery packages containing enough food to feed a family three nutritionally balanced meals a day for three days. Every bag includes fresh meat, fish, or poultry, fresh produce, and bread, as well as non-perishable items from all of the five food groups. Many of our pantry families work closely with one of our two dedicated and capable case managers to address other issues such as employment, housing, education, entitlements, mental health, domestic violence, medical or child care needs.

A major accomplishment this past year has been the design and implementation of our new "Family Pantry Card", a barcode tracking system which will help us to better understand and document client need, as well as speed up food distribution.

Once a month we hold our "Vegetable of the Month Club", teaching clients to prepare nutritional recipes. Pantry clients receive the main vegetable called for in the recipe, as well as a copy of the recipe to prepare at home.



PROGRAMS

Dinner Program Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday YCP serves a nutritious dinner to approximately 125 guests. Volunteers help to serve the meal prepared by our creative and talented cook. The menu always includes fresh meat, poultry or fish, vegetables, rice or pasta, bread and juice.



Project Dignity Every weekday morning, volunteers and staff serve over 125 hot breakfasts. Wednesday is pancake day, which undoubtedly is the designated favorite meal of the week. Also on Wednesdays, our dedicated Mennonite volunteers provide haircuts. Settlement Health outreach workers offer confidential HIV testing and health education. Following breakfast, laundry and shower services are available.

The Project Dignity Men's Shelter provides 12 homeless men overnight shelter seven days a week and case management services focused on acquiring housing and employment.

Our two Project Dignity case managers also outreach to clients during meal programs, establishing trusting working relationships that lead to ongoing advocacy and case management services focused on housing, employment, vocational training, substance abuse counseling and referrals, medical and mental health service referrals.

With volunteers serving food and cleaning up afterward, we served 33,845 hot breakfasts and 29,000 hot dinners in the past year.

Carl

Carl is one of many clients who also volunteers. He is presently working with a Project Dignity case manager to secure permanent housing. He is a veteran with a history of drug addiction and has been clean for the past twelve years. Carl often eats breakfast and dinner at YCP. Volunteering at YCP not only gives Carl the opportunity to help others, but it also helps him to fight his addiction and stay focused on his goals.

James

Since coming to the shelter, James has learned that "life has rules". He became homeless after a drug-related incarceration, and, like many of our clients, he faces enormous obstacles to obtaining safe and affordable housing. He is persistent in his efforts to "...stay clean mentally and stay focused" and appreciates the sense of independence and responsibility offered through the shelter. He is close to securing permanent supportive housing, and while a medical disability prevents him from obtaining paid employment, he is eager to begin volunteering at his nephews' school this month.

24 | 7 YCP

24 | 7 YCP receives referrals from almost 300 community-based organizations, churches, clinics and city agencies.

The typical 24 | 7 YCP recipient is a family of four, two adults and two children.

While Pantry programs serve primarily East Harlem and nearby neighborhoods, 24 | 7 YCP is open to anyone in need.

Q: How can I learn more about hunger in New York State?

To learn more about Hunger in New York City and New York State, visit the New York City Coalition Against Hunger website at www.nyccah.org or the Hunger Action Network of New York State at www.hungeractionnys.org

In February 2003, 24|7 YCP opened its doors and has not closed them since.



A constant production of grocery packages and brown bag meals is necessary to meet the hunger needs of 24 | 7 YCP clients, and we have been fortunate to have the dedicated efforts of volunteers visiting from all over the country to assist us.



Because Hunger doesn't have a set schedule...

24|7 YCP operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year.

A one-time emergency food assistance program, 24|7 YCP, is designed to meet the acute hunger needs of families and individuals. They may be referred by community-based agencies, churches and city agencies like St. Cecilia's Church, Children's Aid Society, Hope Community, Part of the Solution and New York City Food Stamps Offices from all over New York City. Word-of-mouth, however, has been our strongest referral tool.

When households come to 24|7 YCP, they are asked to participate in a brief questionnaire to record basic household information and the nature of the emergency. If there is a need for ongoing supplemental food assistance, the household is referred to a community pantry in their own neighborhood or to other programs at Yorkville Common Pantry. After completing the questionnaire and referral process, they are provided with a grocery package of non-perishable food, which provides three meals for three days for each member of the household.

In addition to the emergency food packages, 24|7 YCP also provides ready-to-eat brown bag meals for families and individuals who say they are hungry during the questionnaire. Brown bag meals are also available to individuals who do not have access to a cooking facility, and to individuals who are homeless.

24|7 YCP's annual operating costs are \$300,000. We continue to seek funding for this unique and much needed program.

In its first year of operation, 24|7 YCP never closed its doors, even during a blizzard and city-wide power outage.

Half of the households that receive 24|7 YCP emergency services are then referred to either the YCP Thursday or Saturday Pantry Programs for ongoing supplemental food assistance.

24|7 YCP's unsung heroes are the staff who work the evening, overnight and weekend shifts: Marion Williams, Michael Fields, Vernell Riley, Robert Gamboa and Yvette Phillips. They are rarely seen by most, but the effect of their hard work is undeniably visible - and there has been 0% turnover!

Celebrating 0



We sincerely thank you for everything that you bring to YCP – for every smile, for every bag packed and meal served, for every helpful suggestion, for your teamwork, patience and humor, and for returning day after day, week after week, and year after year, invigorating the work we do to help people in need.

Pictures speak a thousand words...



Helene Abraham Award

In 2003, the YCP Board established a Volunteer Community Service Award in memory of Helene Abraham, one of our most dedicated, committed, passionate volunteers and a longtime Board member. The second annual 2004 Helene Abraham award was presented to Roland Woodland by Helene's granddaughter and YCP Board member, Antonia Abraham, at our Spring Benefit at Mercedes-Benz Manhattan. Roland's volunteer contributions to YCP are truly invaluable. His compassion, intelligence, humor and warmth are a constant source of strength to our clients, staff and other volunteers. Roland has been volunteering since 1993, and currently serves as St. Edward the Martyr's representative on the YCP board.

We thank you, Roland, from the very bottom of our hearts, for your phenomenal efforts and commitment to the YCP community.



ur Volunteers



Every YCP staff person has been heard saying to volunteers “we could not do this without you” and that is the simple truth. Each week over 70 volunteers donate their time – packing and serving groceries to seven hundred families each week, preparing 24/7 YCP grocery and brown bags, assisting with administrative and development tasks, unloading endless truckloads of food deliveries, serving hot meals...and each and every task is tirelessly accomplished with warmth, caring and respect for YCP clients.

Without a doubt, we absolutely could not do it without you...

Becoming a Volunteer

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and join together to create the YCP family. Some have been coming for over fifteen years, rain or shine. Some come only once and leave with a deeper understanding of hunger and poverty in NYC. Groups from all over the country donate their time and return home with memories of a vibrant community in East Harlem. Many of our volunteers are generous clients of YCP programs, others are deeply committed YCP Board Members, and some are individuals who just walk through our doors and into the heart of our programs.

If you would like to become part of our team, please contact Gladys Ortiz, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 212-410-2264, ext 110.

Our Partners in Volunteers

Our volunteer partners, who regularly coordinate groups to volunteer at YCP, include Mission NYC, YSOP, the Mennonite Church, New York Cares, the Food Bank of NYC, City Harvest, and scores of public and private schools, religious organizations, and corporate groups.

Goods and Services

The donated goods and services received from individuals, schools, businesses, agencies and religious organizations (in addition to our sponsoring organizations) are key to our ability to provide services to every family and individual that walks through our doors. This past year we received nearly \$700,000 in donated goods and services, and we thank you for your very generous support.

▪ AARP ▪ Andrea Lockwood Assoc. ▪ Jammie Artise ▪ ASPCA ▪ Bedell Cellars and Corey Creek Vineyards
▪ Bloomingdale's ▪ Blue, Inc. ▪ Susan & Paul Bohan ▪ AnneMarie & Marco Borghese ▪ Brady's Bar ▪ Brasserie
Julien ▪ Amy & Bob Bressman ▪ Brown Harris Stevens ▪ Hilary & Paul W. Brown ▪ Todd Buchanan ▪
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Sponsors

Religious Sponsoring Organizations

We extend heartfelt thanks to our religious sponsoring organizations. Over the years you have continued to support our mission by providing dedicated board members, contributing funds, sending volunteers, and organizing food drives. Your compassion and generosity of spirit are truly invaluable to the YCP community.

■ The Brick Presbyterian Church ■ The Church of St. Edward the Martyr ■ 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 United Methodist Church ■ Park Avenue Synagogue ■ St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church ■ St. James' Church ■ St. Jean Baptiste Church ■ St. Joseph Yorkville ■ St. Stephen of Hungary ■ 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 ■

Schools

The participation and support of the following schools helps to sustain and energize YCP efforts. Whether conducting food drives, volunteering, or creating festive holiday gifts for YCP clients, your caring and warmth are deeply appreciated.

Abraham Joshua Heschel ■ Abraham Lincoln School ■ Alexander Robertson School ■ All Souls School ■ Allen-Stevenson School ■ Ark Nursery School ■ Bank Street College of Education ■ Birch Wathen Lenox School ■ Brearley School ■ Brick Presbyterian Day ■ Browning School ■ Buckley School ■ Caedmon School ■ Chapin School ■ Children's All Day School ■ Collegiate School ■ Columbia Grammar Prep ■ Dalton School ■ Dwight School ■ East Harlem Tutorial ■ Ethical Culture Fieldston ■ Family School ■ Hewitt School ■ Horace Mann ■ Horace Mann Nursery ■ Hunter College High School ■ International PreSchool ■ Lycee Francais de New York ■ Madison Ave. Presbyterian Day ■ Mandell Nursery School ■ Manhattan Country School ■ Marymount School ■ Nightingale-Bamford ■ Park Ave. Christian Day ■ Park Ave. Methodist Day ■ Parkside School ■ Park Ave. Synagogue Early Childhood Center ■ PS 146 ■ PS 155 ■ Regis High School ■ Resurrection School ■ Riverdale Country School ■ Rudolph Steiner School ■ Saint David's School ■ Seton Day Care Center ■ Spence School ■ St. Bernard's School ■ St. Ignatius Loyola School ■ St. Joseph's School ■ St. Thomas Choir School ■ St. Thomas More Playgroup ■ St. Vincent Ferrer H.S. ■ Stephen Gaynor School ■ Temple Emanu-El Nursery School ■ Thurgood Marshall High School ■ Town School ■ Trevor Day School ■ Trinity School ■ United Nations International ■ Xavier High School ■ York Avenue Pre-school ■

Affiliates

To maximize our effectiveness in serving clients, YCP works in close collaboration with several neighboring organizations. With the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, we form the East Side Homeless Network. We also work with 30 agencies as a member of the East Harlem Human Services Consortium. Many thanks to all of our affiliates for your invaluable support and creative collaboration.

In addition, without the food we receive from City Harvest and the Food Bank of NYC, we couldn't open our doors.

NYC, NYS and Federal government policies affect our ability to serve YCP clients. For this reason we have supported many of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger's advocacy campaigns, such as their efforts to increase the availability of food stamps and increase funding for the city's Emergency Food Assistance Program.



Funders

The generous support of our funders enables the Yorkville Common Pantry to provide nutritious meals and support services to people needing assistance. While we have limited space and cannot personally acknowledge each and every donor, please know that we are extremely grateful for every donation large or small. We could not survive without the kindness and compassion of your giving, and we thank you for your contributions.

\$100,000 + Donors

Robin Hood Foundation

The Starr Foundation

Hunger Prevention Nutrition Program (HPNAP), New York State, Dept. of Health

**Indirect Vitamins Purchasers Antitrust Litigation Settlement
administered by the Attorney General, New York State**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

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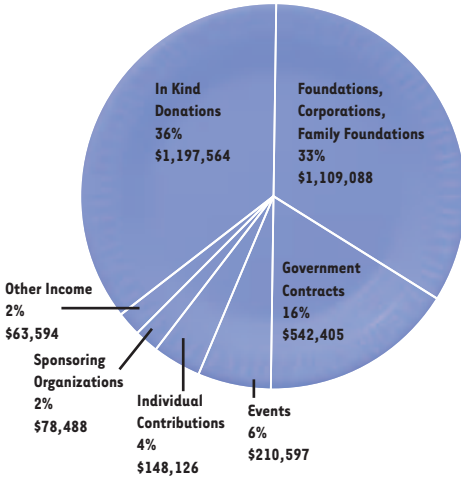
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YCP Financial Summary *fiscal year July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004*

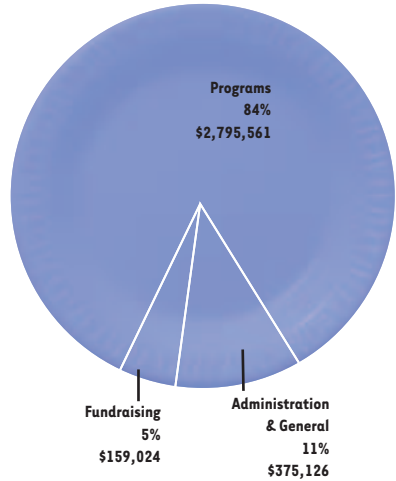
Income

\$3,349,862



Expenses

\$3,329,711



The above information was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. Audited financial statements are on file at Yorkville Common Pantry, 8 East 109th Street, New York, NY 10029-3402. 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.

Yorkville Common Pantry is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code and has been classified as a publicly supported charitable organization under Section 509 (a) (1) and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction by individual donors.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO YCP

We would particularly like to encourage our supporters to consider will bequests and other planned giving techniques, in order to provide YCP with a more stable long-term financial base.

For more information about gifts and bequests and planned giving, please contact Executive Director, Jeff Ambers, at 212.410.2264, ext. 115.

credits

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Brook Pieri

Daniel Reyes

Norma Samame

Printing

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Photographer

Jerry Speier

Design

Binzen + Binzen

Frequently Asked Questions – *what volunteers always ask!*

Q. Where does YCP get its food?

YCP receives weekly deliveries of donated and purchased food from the Food Bank of NYC, and donated fresh food and produce from City Harvest, as well as donated fresh bread from Eli's Market twice weekly. We also purchase wholesale foods every week, and depend on Freddie, a local butcher from Lew Cap Market on 96th Street, for our quality fresh meat and fish and poultry.

Q. How often can clients receive groceries from YCP?

YCP Pantry clients can receive groceries up to four times a month.

Q. How many meals did YCP serve this past year?

YCP served 1,062,960 grocery meals and 62,845 hot meals, totaling 1,125,800 meals this past year.

Q. How does someone become a YCP Pantry client?

Clients work with YCP case managers to determine their eligibility and frequency for receiving groceries.

Q. Where did YCP get its name?

The Yorkville Common Pantry was started in 1980 by volunteers from Eastside churches and synagogues to address the new phenomena of homeless and hungry men, women and children on the streets of our neighborhoods. Until 2001, YCP's soup kitchen was housed in Yorkville at PS 151. We maintain strong ties to the Eastside community, and take great pride in carrying on the compassion and generosity of the Yorkville community through our name.

Q. How can I best support YCP or one of your programs?

In addition to volunteering, you can make a financial donation, donation of services or a "restricted" contribution to any of our programs.

Since 1980, YCP staff has grown to a team of 27, with 19 full-time employees. Two of our full-time staff are former YCP clients, successfully moving from client to volunteer to part-time to full-time positions, and we are committed to continuing this positive trend in the years to come.

Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to helping others – you are truly a phenomenal team!

Unavailable for this photo were some of our dedicated 24/7 YCP team, our overnight shelter coordinator, and members of our facilities team.



YCP Staff *listed in alphabetical, not photographic, order.* Jeff Ambers, Anthony Anderson, Maria Bakht, Allan Brown, Sheila Corrales, Raymond Delgado, Michael T. Fields, Wendel Franks, Robert Gamboa, Noel Gonzalez, Anthony Graham, Shari James, Juan Mendez, Larry Mimms, Gladys Ortiz, Brook Pieri, Yvette Phillips, Daniel Reyes, Vernell Riley, Joseph A. Rivera, Tommy Robinson, Doris Robles, Myrna Rodrigues, Norma Samame, Yolanda Singleton, Clarence Williams, Marion Williams.



"Taste of Spring" 2004

The Spring Benefit is the Pantry's most important fundraiser and traditionally contributes a substantial amount to the annual operating budget.

The magnificent showroom of Mercedes-Benz Manhattan, the great energy of the Junior Committee and the hard work of the Benefit Committee all contributed to one of our most successful benefits. Our thanks to the Chairs, Barbara & Henry Gooss, Linda & Paul Holt, and the Auction Chairs Gina Nelson & Brady Wilcox. Wendy Gartner Salles was Honorary Chair.

We could not have achieved such impressive results without the many volunteers who both contributed their time before and during the evening and their talents in soliciting prizes for the Silent Auction and Raffle.



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