



THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ON OUR COMMUNITY

The fallout from the federal shutdown and sudden halt of SNAP benefits has hit our guests with devastating speed. Every day, we are seeing the painful reality of empty cupboards and impossible choices — and we are stretching every resource to ensure New Yorkers don't go hungry. Even as we advocate for the full reinstatement of federal SNAP funding, we have been calling on our city and state partners to step up and help us meet the extraordinary rise in need across our Pantries.

Toward that end, Governor Kathy Hochul hosted a press event in our East Harlem Pantry where she packed Pantry bags, declared a state of emergency in NY State and committed another \$65 million for emergency food providers to support the many hungry New Yorkers facing empty cupboards. The event and NYCP received a lot of media attention in outlets such as CBS NY, NBC NY, FOX News, PIX11, MSN, Reuters, and many more. This coverage serves to put our name in front of many tristate residents as they learn more about the pressures NYCP and emergency food providers are facing.

We appreciate everyone who responded to our appeal for support during this difficult time. We have been working with government and non-government partners to secure the additional resources to fund NYCP during this critical time. In addition, as part of our work with The Roundtable, we hosted a follow-up press event focusing on SNAP allocation issues and what we're seeing on the ground with double-digit increases in guest visits. The crisis is far from over — but together, we are making sure New Yorkers know they are not alone, and that NYCP is here to stand with them.

Governor Kathy Hochul declared a State of emergency for New York at a press conference held at New York Common Pantry.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Lines of people waiting for Thanksgiving packages at our East Harlem Pantry.

While the adage "knowledge is power" has proven true for centuries, some information has the opposite effect – it's debilitating, causing crippling challenges. Such has been the case in 2025.

Learning about the government shutdown did not mitigate its effects, and looming, strict SNAP requirements for eligibility and cuts to benefits, coupled with \$536 billion in pending cuts to Medicare, have meant those we serve are under duress. Perhaps in 2025, you could say "knowledge is dour."

According to the latest Poverty Tracker[1], the cost of food has risen 33% over the past 10 years, making it increasingly unaffordable. 42% of families with children report they need more money to meet their household food needs and 89% of these families have at least one working adult whose wages cannot support the family.

Strikingly, the average amount of additional money needed has increased to \$205 per week or \$820 per month. For many, this gap is insurmountable and they must rely on emergency food providers like New York Common Pantry (NYCP) for help.



**WHEN "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"
TURNS INTO "KNOWLEDGE IS DOUR."**



In the month of November alone, we've enrolled 555 new Pantry members at our two brick-and-mortar sites – a 55% increase over this time last year. Our case managers recount that guest concern and anxiety for access to and paying for food is the highest it's ever been. During their intakes, guest conversations are now peppered with inquiries about the current state of SNAP, the rising cost of food, and what other resources are immediately available for them. Fear and desperation have set in.

In my nearly two decades of work at NYCP, and more than 30 in the human services sector, rarely have I seen a time more urgent than now. As we prepare for the holidays, NYCP has ramped up our efforts to do more, especially in the wake of the aforementioned challenges. While we are working to alleviate the stress of food insecurity by providing extra food and resources for our neighbors, we can only do so with your support. Help us to turn knowledge back into power.

Stephen Grimaldi
Executive Director

1. Data from "[Spotlight on: Food Budget Shortfalls in New York City](#)," Robin Hood and Columbia University Poverty Tracker, November 2025.

MEET OUR GUEST: JUDITH T.



It makes a difference if I run out of food. Every two weeks, I can go get a package. It relieves the fear that I don't have food. Every two weeks comes fast.

Judith has been visiting the Pantry for almost a decade. After years of working at daycares, it caused her severe back pain which has led to other injuries, being sick from ongoing stress, an emergency

operation, and multiple visits to the hospital. As a single mother, she continued to work despite her conditions in order to pay the bills. The Pantry has helped her significantly—she can travel less to receive food and minimize trips to the grocery store. Judith likes the vegetables and appreciates the varieties of canned goods she receives.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES



Bloomberg Philanthropies has partnered with New York Common Pantry since 2013. Most recently, Bloomberg employees took part in the Million Meals Challenge, a global effort to support communities facing hunger through direct, hands-on service. NYCP received 100,000 meals for our guests from this extraordinary effort. The organization also has supported

NYCP in other meaningful ways. As part of its efforts to foster community health, ensuring better, longer lives for the greatest number of people, Bloomberg Philanthropies has provided support for our Live Healthy! Program. Live Healthy! provides nutrition education, nutrient-dense food access and healthcare management for those managing or at-risk for diet-related conditions. Bloomberg Philanthropies' support enables NYCP to continue these critical nutrition education initiatives for under-resourced communities.

"Bloomberg's partnership with NYCP enables us to work toward our common goal of addressing food insecurity while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency for all New Yorkers," said Nancy Cutler, Head of Corporate Philanthropy, Americas at Bloomberg.

JOIN THE GIVING TABLE: LEAVE A LEGACY OF NOURISHMENT

Your legacy can help ensure that every New Yorker has access to healthy food, dignity, and the support they need to thrive.

By including New York Common Pantry in your will or estate plans, you become part of The Giving Table, our newly launched legacy society dedicated to sustaining this mission for generations to come.

Planning ahead should feel simple and empowering—that's why we've partnered with Giving Docs to offer a free, secure online tool to create your will and other essential documents. A planned gift of any size strengthens our work, from providing nutritious groceries to offering social services case management and nutrition education.

Create your plan today at [GivingDocs.com/NYCommonPantry](https://givingdocs.com/NYCommonPantry) and help nourish futures for years to come.

And if you have already included NYCP in your estate plans, please let us know so we can welcome you to The Giving Table!



<https://bit.ly/4ji6zu6>

PLEASE DONATE
AND HELP US CONTINUE FEEDING
NEW YORKERS IN NEED



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Follow us on social media!



HOLIDAY GIVING AT NYCP

Friendsgiving hosted by NYCP Associate Board



The New York Common Pantry Associate Board hosted its annual Friendsgiving at the East Harlem Pantry. The event featured a delicious three-course, family-style meal provided by Restaurant Associates. Friendsgiving raised more than **\$21,500**, which will provide **286 families** with holiday meals!

During these challenging times, when SNAP benefits are at risk, we have seen a large increase in the number of individuals signing up for our Pantry services or renewing their memberships. During our holiday appeal, any funds raised will help provide access to fresh, nutritious food and case management services. Consider making a donation today.

Photography: Press Conference with Gov. Kathy Hochul by Office of Governor Kathy Hochul, Guest Judith T. by The Rathkophs, Pantry line, Bloomberg volunteers, and Friendsgiving guests by Cindy Hu.

Stock the Pantry: Holiday Food Drive

New York Common Pantry is collecting items to fill grocery packages to feed the community this holiday season.

Contribute to our Holiday Food Drive or see the items we need and start your own collection!

- Canned or dry beans
- Canned fruit/vegetables
- Canned fish or chicken
- Grains
- Peanut Butter
- Shelf-stable milk
- Cold/hot cereal



<https://amzn.to/4837NpW>



13,600+
VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED 48,500+
HOURS IN FY25