

Rising Food Lines, Sinking Economy

***Increase in NYC Hunger is Early
Proof of Economic Slow-Down***

**Annual Hunger Survey
New York City Coalition Against Hunger
November 2007**



New York City Coalition Against Hunger
Annual New York City Hunger Survey
November 2007

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....

Message From the NYCCAH Executive Director.....

Methodology.....

Citywide Findings.....

Year-to-Year Comparisons.....

Borough Specific Findings.....

Appendix 1 – Selected Quotes From Emergency Food Providers

Appendix 2 – 2006 Survey Letter & Questionnaire

Acknowledgements.....

Executive Summary

The number of people who use food pantries and soup kitchens soared in New York City in 2007, while food stocks drastically declined, forcing fully half of these programs to ration food.

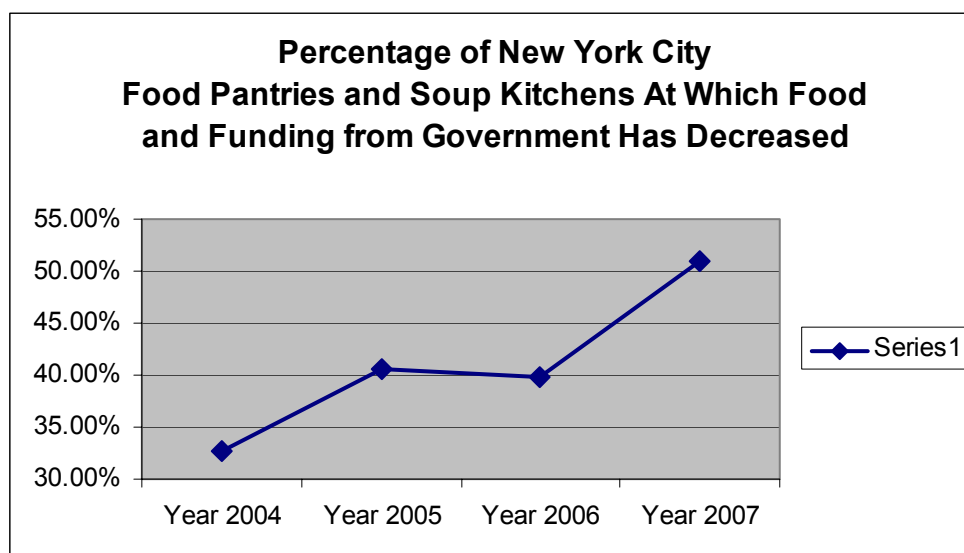
The Coalition's survey estimated that pantry and kitchen use increased by 20% in 2007, on top of the 11% increase in 2006 estimated by last year's survey. This accelerating increase in hunger provides one of the first concrete signs that the local economy has started a significant slow-down.

According to the Coalition's estimate based on federal data for 2006 at the state level, 1.3 million New Yorkers – one in six City residents – still live in households which are food insecure, meaning they cannot afford an adequate and consistent supply of food.

New York City must pay \$2.65 billion per year due to health care spending, reduced worker productivity and other spending caused by this high level of food insecurity, according to Coalition calculations based on a national study by Dr. Larry Brown of Harvard University.

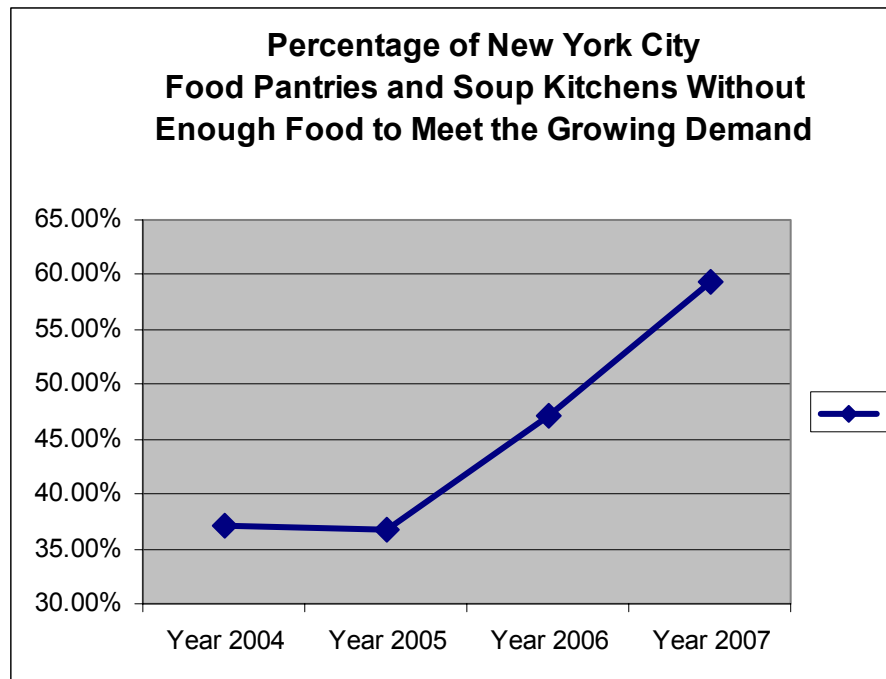
As a result, 51% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months. Only 25% reported an increase and 22% reported no change.

As the chart below demonstrates, the 51% of agencies losing government funding is a sharp increase over the 39% level of last year and the 32.6% level of three years ago.



These struggling programs – often run by unpaid volunteers – simply can't keep up.

As the chart below demonstrates, fully **59%** of agencies – a record number -- said they lacked the resources to meet their growing demand in 2007, a sharp increase from the 48% who lacked such resources in 2006.



Other findings of the survey:

- 81% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 40% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, immigrants, and senior citizens.
- 80% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of families with children over the last 12 months (versus 4% reporting a decrease, and 16% reporting no change).
- 71% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of seniors over the last 12 months (versus 6% reporting a decrease, and 23% reporting no change).
- 64% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of working people over the last 12 months (versus 11% reporting a decrease, and 25% reporting no change).

- 83% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 34% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 51% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (vs. 22% reporting no change, and 25% reporting an increase).
- 53% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often,” “always,” or sometimes to support their feeding programs.
- While it is by definition impossible to fully count the number of times people were not served because they were turned away, the Coalition’s rough estimate, based on survey responses, indicates that 52% more people were turned-away in 2006 than in 2007.
- 90% of responding agencies said they would like to improve the nutritional quality of the food they distribute. When asked to indicate the top way to accomplish that goal, 53% needed more fresh fruits and vegetables, 35% wanted more nutritious canned and dried foods, 7% wanted nutrition education for their clients, and 5% wanted nutrition education for their staffs.

The borough break-downs are as follows:

Borough	% of agencies at which demand for food increased	% of agencies at which the amount of food was not enough to meet growing demand	% of agencies forced to ration food by limiting portion size, reducing hours of operation, and/or turning people away
The Bronx	88%	65%	54%
Brooklyn	87%	67%	52%
Manhattan	76%	36%	30%
Queens	83%	76%	67%
Staten Island	86%	29%	57%

Year-to-Year Comparisons

	2007	2006	2005	2004
% of responding programs that are faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically located in a religious institution	73%	74%	72%	71%
% of responding programs that are soup kitchens only	9%	10%	11%	10%
% of responding programs that are food pantries only	65%	65%	64%	66%
% of responding programs that are both food pantries and soup kitchens	21%	18%	21%	21%
% of responding agencies that don't have enough food to meet the current demand	59%	47%	37%	37%
% of responding agencies forced to ration food	50%	44%	47%	50
% of responding agencies at which government money and food decreased in the past year	51%	40%	41%	33%
% of responding agencies at which overall money and food decreased in the past year	50%	41%	41%	39%
% that received support from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), funded by the Federal government	56%	81%	70%	75%
% that received support from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP), which is funded by the Federal government.	49%	45%	56%	41%
% that received support from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) program, which is funded by the State	80%	81%	84%	78%
% that received support from the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), which is funded by the City	75%	73%	70%	64%

In response to these findings, the Coalition recommends a five-point plan to end hunger in New York and America:

1) The Federal, State, and City governments should launch ambitious new anti-poverty plans that focus more on increasing the wages of workers and making quality education, health care, housing, and child care available for working families, and less on lecturing low-income people on their personal behavior.

2) The Federal Farm Bill should include more funding for the Food Stamps Programs; for commodities for pantries and kitchens; and for fresh produce; and pay for those improvements by cutting corporate welfare for wealthy agribusinesses.

3) The State Food Policy Council should coordinate and simplify access to federally-funded nutrition assistance programs and should increase the accessibility and affordability of nutritious foods in low-income neighborhoods and towns.

4) The City should accelerate its existing efforts to increase access to the Food Stamps, School Breakfast, and Summer Meals Programs.

5) Private corporations and businesses should voluntarily commit to ensuring that all their workers, as well as all the workers for their contractors and suppliers, earn a living wage.

Message From the NYCCAH Executive Director

You've probably seen this shocking headline in the news over the last few weeks:

NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens Are Running Out of Food

This survey proves that, unfortunately, that headline is all-too-accurate. The shelves are increasingly bare at the city's 1,200 charitable feeding agencies.

This annual survey of food pantries and soup kitchens shows that more working families, children, and seniors are being forced to seek emergency food.

Given that hunger continued to increase in the city, even when the economy was still strong last year, it is no wonder that now, when the economy is weakening, lines at pantries and kitchens are getting even worse. This proves the old adage that when the economy gets a cold, people in poverty get pneumonia.

Despite this reality, the Bush Administration has cut the amount of federal commodities provided to the city's pantries and kitchens by 12 million pounds this year. These struggling programs – often run by unpaid volunteers – simply can't keep up.

As a result of these trends, this survey found that a record number of pantries and kitchens don't have enough food to meet the growing need. Fully about half of the agencies are actually being forced to ration food by limiting portion size, reducing their hours of operation, and/or by turning away hungry New Yorkers.

For the 1.3 million food insecure New Yorkers – many of whom are working hard but just don't earn enough to feed their families – this will be a particularly cruel holiday.

Also over the past year, the total net worth of the wealthiest 64 New Yorkers rose from \$60.4 billion to \$224 billion – a 270% increase. In contrast, the 1.7 million city residents living below the federal poverty line earned a combined total of approximately \$3.45 billion, about the same amount as the previous year, according to calculations by the Coalition. In other words, the 64 wealthiest New Yorkers now have more than sixty times the total money as the 1.7 million poorest.

These trends are directly related. When billionaires are able to dramatically increase their wealth because of massive federal tax cuts targeted to them, this drains revenues away from the government that could have otherwise been used to pay for programs that fight hunger. When the wages of low-income workers stagnate as prices skyrocket, more and more of them must take the agonizing step of turning to pantries and kitchens to feed their families.

This season's only bright side was that participation in the Food Stamp Program has finally started rising significantly in New York City to meet the increasing need. Program participation

is now 318,899-people higher than when Mayor Bloomberg took office, although still 341,005 people lower than the peak level in March 1995. As a consequence of the increased participation, low-income New Yorkers now receive \$43 million per month -- \$525 million per year -- more today in food stamps benefits than they did in January of 2002.

Three factors contributed to this increase in food stamps participation: expanded outreach; access improvements by the Federal, State, and City governments; and the weakening economy. Our greatest wish is that more New Yorkers would be able to earn enough through full-time work so that they will no longer need food stamps, but until that time, we are grateful that the program is starting to work as it is supposed to by expanding during tough times. Without this food stamps increase, the problem at feeding programs would be even more catastrophic. But with more than 500,000 low-income New Yorkers still eligible for but not currently receiving benefits, we have our work more than cut out for us.

Year after year, we must come before the City right before Thanksgiving to detail how our economic and social policies are failing to meet basic needs of new Yorkers. I hope this is finally the year that we all join together to make the necessary public policy improvements to finally turn this problem around.

This report proposes a five point plan to end hunger in New York City and America. The plan is basic common sense, but it will take significant resources and political leadership to implement. The Federal, State, and City governments must take the lead, but private corporations and business groups, religious groups, and average citizens all have important roles to play.

Given that one in six New York City residents now live in homes that can't afford enough food, this is a problem that urgently needs to be fixed. If the nation rapidly takes the basic steps we suggest, next year we would be able to release our annual survey and finally – finally – be able to announce that hunger had decreased.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Berg". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joel Berg
Executive Director
New York City Coalition Against Hunger

Survey Methodology

The 2007 survey questionnaire (Appendix 3) was originally mailed to a collective list of **1,219** agencies believed to run soup kitchens, food pantries, and/or some sort of emergency food program (EFP). This list was created through a combination of member agency rosters maintained by the Food Bank for NYC and City Harvest, and recipients of the EFAP/HPNAP funding streams.

Following the mailing, the Coalition Against Hunger made follow-up visits, phone calls and faxed/emailed reminders to as many agencies as possible in order to solicit responses. Agencies were encouraged to either mail/fax the paper survey to the Coalition or complete the survey online using Survey Monkey, a web-based data collection service. In this sense, sampling was only partly random, as agencies with a preexisting relationship with the Coalition received more encouragement to complete the survey. However, the breadth of survey responses, consistency of respondent characteristics with previous surveys done by the Coalition and other organizations, and number of responses from agencies with no preexisting relationship to the Coalition assured us that this sample was representative.

All paper surveys were also entered online using Survey Monkey by Coalition staff and volunteers. In total, 291 agencies returned surveys. Responding agencies who do not offer food to the public (either by walk-in or referral) were removed from subsequent analysis, leaving 265 usable surveys. Not all percentages total exactly 100% due to rounding.

2007 Survey Overall Respondent Characteristics

(Unless otherwise noted, percentages are calculated from the response to a particular question, not the overall response rate.)

- The overall analyzed response rate for this survey was 291 agencies out of a list of 1219 agencies, or 24%.
- Response rates within boroughs:

	Respondents / Total Agencies	% Response
Bronx	51/234	22%
Brooklyn	101/349	28%
Queens	54/218	25%
Manhattan	74/353	21%
Staten Island	7/45	16%

- Respondents by type of program:

Food pantry	65%
Soup Kitchen	9%
Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	21%
Other	5%

- 73% of respondents identified themselves as faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically housed in a religious institution.

2007 Survey Overall Responses of Note

Rising Need...

- 59% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 40% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Between 2006 and 2007, reported demand at all NYC soup kitchens and food pantries increased by an average of 20%

Stagnating Resources...

- Responding agencies received an undetermined amount of food or funding from the following private, city, state and federal resources**:
 - 56% received support from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), funded by the Federal government
 - 49% received support from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP), which is funded by the Federal government.
 - 80% received support from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) program, which is funded by the State
 - 75% received support from the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), which is funded by the City
 - 60% received support from the Food Bank for NYC (private).
 - 58% received support from City Harvest (private).

** Citywide participation rates in these programs are known to be lower than the numbers reflected here, demonstrating that the respondents to this survey are likely better resourced than non-respondents.

Bronx Survey Responses

“Our primary source for food, TEFAP, has overwhelmingly decreased in the last year, to the point that we are sometimes unable to open our pantry. Help!” -- **Paul Block, Transfiguration Lutheran Church**

Among Bronx respondents to our survey:

- 88% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 54% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 76% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 35% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 48% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 20% reported no change).
- 46% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 13% reported no change).
- 65% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 53% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2007
- 21% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (53% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

Manhattan Survey Responses

“There has been a dramatic increase in the demand for food from both community members and clients”. -- **Meredith O’Boyle, Baiely House, East Harlem Services**

Among Manhattan respondents to our survey:

- 76% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 19% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens, people with paid employment and immigrants.
- 70% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 25% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 49% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 29% reported no change).
- 38% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 26% reported no change).
- 36% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 29% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2007.
- 20% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (35% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

Staten Island Survey Responses

“Being a Kosher Pantry--food resources have very limited selection. Can use more fruits and vegetables.”

-- **Bracha Cabot, Council of Jewish Organizations of S.I.**

Among Staten Island respondents to our survey:

- 86% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 29% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, working people, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 86% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 57% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 43% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 0% reported no change).
- 43% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 0% reported no change).
- 29% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 57% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2007.
- 29% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (57% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

Brooklyn Survey Responses

"We at Gethsemane Baptist Church food pantry found the need is getting greater than our resources - every year there are more people than the year before." -- **Louis Kelly, Gethsemane Baptist Church**

Among Brooklyn respondents to our survey:

- 87% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 44% said this number increased "greatly."
- Of the populations that increased "greatly" at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 79% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 30% of responding agencies believe it will increase "greatly."
- 51% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 16% reported no change).
- 44% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 15% reported no change).
- 67% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 52% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2007.
- 32% of respondents reported using their own personal money "often" or "always" to support their feeding programs (63% do this "sometimes," "often" or "always").

Queens Survey Responses

“There is a continuing need to access funds to purchase food. The changes at America's Second Harvest and the small amounts of food at TEFAP and Food Bank are causes for real concern. The cost of food relentlessly goes up while grants either go down or remain stagnant. Also funds for personnel are hard to come by. One of the most basic of needs continues to get short shifted - if one can't purchase food they are in a lot of trouble. Food Stamps are at an all-time low in amount...” -- **Christy Robb, Hour Children, Food Pantry**

Among Queens respondents to our survey:

- 83% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 39% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 77% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 33% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 46% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 15% reported no change).
- 33% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 25% reported no change).
- 76% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 67% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2007.
- 17% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (51% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

Five-Step Plan to End Hunger in NYC and America

In response to these findings, the Coalition recommends a five-point plan to end hunger in New York and America:

- 1) The Federal, State, and City governments should launch ambitious new anti-poverty plans that focus more on increasing the wages of workers and making quality education, health care, housing, and child care available for working families, and less on lecturing low-income people on their personal behavior.
- 2) The Federal Farm Bill should include more funding for the Food Stamps Programs; for commodities for pantries and kitchens; and for fresh produce; and pay for those improvements by cutting corporate welfare for wealthy agribusinesses.
- 3) The State Food Policy Council should coordinate and simplify access to federally-funded nutrition assistance programs and should increase the accessibility and affordability of nutritious foods in low-income neighborhoods and towns.
- 4) The City should accelerate its existing efforts to increase access to the Food Stamp, School Breakfast, and Summer Meals Programs.
- 5) Private corporations and businesses should voluntarily commit to ensuring that all their workers, as well as all the workers for their contractors and suppliers, earn a living wage sufficient enough to enable such workers to feed their families and pay for all other basic expenses.

Appendix 1: Selected Quotes from Survey Respondents

- We wish that large families could receive pantry food commensurate to their sizes. Also, that pantry program hours could be extended to 7 pm to accommodate low-income workers returning home late from work. -- **Joy Tikili, Manna Ministries Church of God 7th Day (Pentecostal) Inc.**
- Due to the fact that we are a Kosher Food Pantry, our food sources are very limited. Therefore, we are unable to offer a better variety of nutritious canned and dried food. -- **Miriam Yoles, Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights/Inwood**
- Would like an increase in the amount of fish sent as certain people eat only fish instead of meat. -- **Martin Dempsey, Blessed Sacrament**
- The lines are longer and the food and resources are shorter. I will reach out to local politicians this year. We could use help in resources helping to bring people from poverty. P.S. Also I purchased the resource guide. I thought our agency would be listed for Queens. Any help with that? -- **Swami Durga Das, The River Fund New York**
- There are a lot more people in need of food. Our line for food pantry is double the line of last year. Rents are very high and wages are meager. -- **Msgr. John Peyton, St. Rita's Soup Kitchen/Pantry**
- I hope the surveys will help my church to be able to help more people and I truly appreciate you sending me those surveys. I can be able to do more through the knowledge I would acquire if I could get what I ask for. Thank you. -- **Marie Bernadin, Beraca SDA Church**
- We would like a refrigerator/freezer and more space to store different types of food. -- **Yessmin Hernandez, Bronx AIDS Services**
- We are in a fund-raising campaign to upgrade our buildings and especially our electrical system. More electricity, a better wiring configuration and we can accommodate more refrigeration. We could then store fresh produce and have it be a regular part of our menu. We would like the ability to choose items from EFAP. We are given products that are not nutritious (canned spaghetti, soups that are high in sodium). -- **Carol Vedral, The Father's Heart Ministries**
- Other type of RFP: The Mobile Soup Kitchen and Social Services that distribute food in Brooklyn and Queens. Food Pantry: Closed the 1st Friday of the month. Friday is only for the Seniors. -- **Yemi Oyename, St. John's Bread & Life Program, Inc**
- Our agency is always participating in nutrition training classes with Food Bank. We also have speakers that provide nutrition education workshops at our facility. -- **Maria Perez, Thorpe Family Residence**
- Overall, the amount of food from our resources check on average has decreased tremendously. There's no explanation given but it has to be something because there isn't really a lack of food. There is plenty, but we are not getting it. -- **Minister Preston Jackson, Evangelistic Outreach Program Food Pantry**
- We have been closed too many times- lack of food. -- **Reverend Julio Rivera, Iglesia Crestiana Luz del Mundo, Inc**

- This program needs more volunteers. Volunteers are now looking for a monetary reward, if not that, a metro card. I hope I can get help in that area. -- **Rosa M. Hall, Mt. Zion B.C. Mission Outreach**
- As of November 11th, we will serve our last meal from this facility, we will be erecting a new church building. Unless we find a place in the area where we can provide this service, we will stay closed until the church building is finished. And if we find a place, we will need assistance in paying rent and utilities. This is our main problem. -- **Horace Day, Lighthouse (Soup Kitchen)**
- Clients of the A.C.Q.C. are the only ones allowed to pick up on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Community is allowed to pick up Mon., Wed., and Fri. between 1-3 pm, once a month. -- **Taiesha Hines, AIDS Center of Queens County**
- The pantry closes 2-3 times a year because of lack of food. We post a sign referring clients to call the Hunger Hotline. -- **Joanne Rochon, St. Element Pope R.C. Church Food Pantry**
- Being a Kosher Pantry--food resources have very limited selection. Can use more fruits and vegetables. -- **Bracha Cabot, Council of Jewish Organizations of S.I.**
- In August 2006 STA Food Pantry requested administrative hold since the building we used was rented. We are currently awaiting our new location to be vacated by Catholic Charities. Our government grants increased for 1 month in August of '06 since we received our first and last EFAP delivery prior to closing. Our numbers if we were open would increase to increases in foreclosures. -- **Alicia M. Hamill, St. Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry**
- The frozen chickens we received over the summer were a good size compared to the leg quarter in bulk last year. We could use more products of that nature. Also small packs of fish and chop meant (for burgers or hot dogs) for children in summer would be most useful. -- **Jeanie Ruvolo, Ministry of Care and Service**
- We have less people coming to the food pantry b/c they know we do not have enough food, it was out quickly and sometimes they cannot get a balanced meal. -- **Rosemarie Rosa, Cardinal McCloskey Services**
- Sometimes we are unable to fulfill dietary requirements due to lack of necessary food items. -- **Kirby Theodore, Society of St. Vincent**
- Any food which can be provided in large quantities for 630 recipients a day would be appreciated. We do not have enough storage facilities so we have to be somewhat cautious about what we receive. -- **Loretta M Ginn, Meals on Wheels of Staten Island**
- Due to limited space, limited budget and limited volunteer help, we can not accommodate more than 50 persons each Thursday. Most of the people who come are regulars, a few new faces each month and some regulars disappear, so in the end the number of 50 remains pretty constant. A guard at the entrance door hangs out 50 tickets, first come, first served, although we try to let seniors in first. For the special Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holiday meals, we prepare extra portions and try to accommodate everyone who comes. We also provide entertainment- a retired actor introduces and shows a film after the meal. During the months of July and August, our program is closed. -- **Ulla Farmen, Rutgers Thursday Nighters**

- We have a large population of senior citizens in our program. Also we have people coming in who are community residents living in shelters, assisted living facilities, etc. We would like to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to them hopefully to promote good health. -- **Claudette Winston, Stuyvesant heights Christian Church**
- I am the only one that pays all the bills for my pantry. I established since 1997. I love my pantry, I will never give it up. I need help. Assistance for rent/more groceries. - **Christine Persand, Christina Home Care Services Inc.**
- Unfortunately we receive very limited Kosher products which is very disturbing. There are plenty of Kosher items and we are cut out of ordering these items. -- **Shimon Herz, Shalom Senior Center**
- Some of the requested information was too difficult to obtain for accuracy. -- **Lu Sue Bethel, Bethel Ame Church**
- The reason for nutritious canned and dried foods we have a lot of our people that cannot use salt and sugar and if the nutritious food increased it will help us give our people better food. -- **Edna John, Good News Deliverance Tabernacle Food Pantry**
- For the past two years we have been receiving less food! -- **Muriel Keel, International Pentecostal City Mission**
- The biggest challenge in our program is the lack of full time staff. It is rare for any staff member to be employed solely for running an emergency food program, which serves to hinder EFPs throughout NYC. -- **Mireille Massac, Child Development Support Corporation**
- We are a mobile soup kitchen: not soup kitchen or food pantry. -- **Juan De La Cruz, Coalition for the Homeless**
- We have changed our distribution time to Saturdays 10:00- 11:30; and instead of every Saturday to every other Saturday. Reason of course is that we do not receive as much food donation as before. -- **Cynthia Green, The Gospel Tabernacle Church...Inc.**
- If we had refrigeration we would like fresh produce. -- **Margaret Critchley, St. Raphael Food Pantry**
- We would like to give fresh milk, cheese, frozen vegetables, frozen juices, more fresh fruits. -- **Rev Jerry West, Sr., Mamont Christian Academy**
- Low sugar and low salt for people with health problems. --**Maureen V. Benjamin, Our Lady of Miracles-Canarsie Cluste Center**
- We are not receiving enough food. Very little fresh vegetables. To continue to operate and not turn clients away we need more food or funds to purchase more. Can you help one get more food? Thank you very much. -- **Sis C. Burley, Chance for Children**
- We are a Shelter Organization started by a Catholic Franciscan Priest based on Catholic traditions. We service youths 21 years and under who are homeless and at risk. We have an open - intake policy accepting any and all youths within our age limit regardless of their belief system. We offer two shelter kitchens which are located at 460 West 41st Street and 427 West 52nd Street in New York. -- **Mary Beth Maexner, Covenant House New York**

- Unfortunately I had to make estimates for past years and am not entirely certain about some of the funding programs you asked about. I apologize for not being more specific. Please call me if there are issues with the information I have provided. -- **Richard Marchand, Church of St. Luke in the Fields**
- In June our Soup Kitchen stopped serving a sit-down meal and began an outreach program of taking lunch bags to homeless people within walking distance of our church. -- **Janet Dorman, St. Mary's Episcopal Church Food Pantry**
- The pantry is in service but not the soup kitchen right now. -- **Edgar Hicks, Project Fill**
- Would like to receive my delivery before 12:00 noon because the children aren't around. If delivered later, children who are not looking where they are going may get hurt. -- **Mariana Deliz, The Salvation Army Brownsville Corps**
- Since last year, we have added an after-school program for children ages 5-13 who we feed a hot meal (usually something cold) and a snack between the hours of 2:30-5:30 pm. We have included these numbers with our soup kitchen stats (see appendix page) -- **Rev. Vincent Fusco, Acts Community Development Corp**
- Due to the shortage food from or the HNAP,TEFAP, we have managed to still serve the participants. However, there will be an increase of food soon. There are a lot of new families moving into the Rockaways, plus unemployment is increasing. There does not seem to be enough canned or fresh vegetables listed. -- **Doris Hood, First Church of God**
- We have been involved in the program "Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables". We have also been partnering in nutritional training. -- **Elma Jefferson-Lewis, Bronx Seventh Day Adventist Church**
- I believe very strongly that the problem with our programs is that there are so many new programs opening that we begin to take funds away from our programs in order to support others. Sadly some of these programs have different motives of why they are serving in our community. When you take away from programs that have proven themselves for so many years to support others that are starting out, someone gets hurt -- usually the program with the right motives. -- **Rev. Dominick Reyes, A New Beginning**
- We at Gethsemane Baptist Church food pantry found the need is getting greater than our resources - every year there are more people than the year before. -- **Louis Kelly, Gethsemane Baptist Church**
- We are an abstinent substance abuse program that provides breakfast and lunch to our clients on a daily basis. Our food comes from our BRC food services program - I receive donations and funding from City Harvest and other sources. -- **Murray Edwards, BRC - Bowery Resident's Committee**
- Please note, our food pantry was closed for extended periods in 2005 and 2006, due to renovations. -- **Malika Simmons, Family Life Development Center, Inc.**
- There has been a dramatic increase in the demand for food from both community members and clients. -- **Meredith O'Boyle, Baiely House, East Harlem Services**
- We would like our food sources to have more nutritious canned and dried foods. -- **Christy Robb, Hour Children Community Outreach and Food Pantry**

- We would like our food sources to have more nutritious canned and dried foods. We would like help with nutrition education for our employees. We would like help with nutrition education for our clients. I have received a tremendous amount of help and knowledge from NN/ NYCCA, City Harvest, United Way meetings. -- **Jannett Taylor, Steinway Child & Family Service/ Food Pantry**
- We are sometimes restricted due to unavailability of Kosher products. -- **Cynthia Zalisky, Queens Jewish Community Council.**
- We would also like help with nutrition for our clients. -- **Sister Mary, Fraternite Notre Dame**
- We would like our food sources to have more nutritious canned and dried foods. We would like help with nutrition education for our employees. We would like help with nutrition education for our clients. -- **Gertrude Sexton, Goodwill Tenant Association Incorporated (Food Pantry)**
- The demand continues to go up and it is difficult to manage food budgets. -- **Charles Lowery, Youth Action Programs & Homes Pantry**
- Our primary source for food, TEFAP, has overwhelmingly decreased in the last year, to the point that we are sometimes unable to open our pantry. Help! -- **Paul Block, Transfiguration Lutheran Church**
- Our pantry is only once a month and although it is open to anyone, we gear our program for seniors since our program is a NORC that provides services for low income seniors. -- **Karen Mark, HA Ravenswood NORC**
- Question 20: We have sufficient now, but the cost is rising and we may soon have to curtail. A quart of milk has risen from 90 cents to 1.17 between Dec. '06 and Sept. '07. Question 31: In '03 we served 92,744 people, in '04 we served 83,471 people. This cutback was purposeful, to provide us adequate time to provide counseling and referral to pantry customers. 85% of referred customers who keep their appointment gain the additional service, such as Food Stamps or EITC. Question 40: With the cut back to approximately 150 households a day, we experienced some turn-aways. When analyzed, these were on the day after delivery, and last 3 days of the month. By slightly extending hours on those days, and making sure that we have a full counseling staff, we have learned not to turn people away. Turn-aways that remain, are people who come in at 2.45pm when we close at 3.00pm, and still have 10 people to see. People are asked to return another day. Question 50: We are funded direct for HPNAP from NYSDOH, which was not listed in your HPNAP question, but I checked it. Question 53: If you are asking a \$ value question for an average family. It would be better to specify the family size, suggest 3. Value? what it costs our program? what the family would need to spend? -- **Doreen Wohl, West Side Campaign Against Hunger**
- The pantry has to close 4-5 days each year because of lack of food; we don't have any estimate of the number of people turned away. A sign is posted with the Hunger Hotline phone number. -- **Joanne Rochon, Food Pantry/St Clement Pope Church**
- TEFAP is very helpful in assisting homeless clients with hunger and it help to feed many families in this family shelter. -- **Karen Crook, Help USA**
- I think we provide nutritionally balanced food packages and meals at our facilities, but we don't know how our pantry clients balance their meals. We may give too many carbohydrates and too little good protein. It was difficult to answer question 22 because we keep accurate count of adults, elderly and children for our food pantry. For the soup kitchens few if any children ever come and we don't ask questions so we can't separate the elderly from other adults. Therefore I reported all categories combined. It would be easier to list

numbers for soups kitchens and food pantry separately. Our executive office is at 820 Second Ave, however, I get mail more quickly if sent to 241 West 72nd Street. -- **Marion Lyons, National Council of Jewish Women New York Section**

- The soup kitchen numbers decreased because the church van was in an accident or volunteers to delivery to the senior and handicapped . The normal soup kitchen homebound delivery was about 250 per month, and for the pantry once a month delivery was about 125. Also would like to give out more can or fresh fruit, can or fresh vegetables to client that we service. -- **Margie A. Brock, H.O. Scott Education/Community Center-Peach Cobbler**
- Thank you -- **Norberto Saldana, St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry**
- The population we serve come from diverse ethnic backgrounds in Long Island City and vicinity, including the homeless, persons from the lower social-economic class, middle class workers and families, singles, single parents, immigrants and the elderly. We offer services for access to food stamps, education, entitlements, and nutrition education. -- **Jannett Taylor, Steinway Child & Family Services/Food Pantry**
- Need more resources from food distributors. Sent emails, letters, phone calls: no response! -- **Carla Ramos , St. Mary Star of the Sea**
- Our food pantry has space limitations that prevent us from having freezers or refrigerators. For the most part, we distribute non-perishable foods except for produce we receive from City Harvest the day before distribution.-- **Constance Benson, St. Mark the Evangelist Food Pantry**
- Very thankful for the food bank that's helping us out. I try to give out food that is as nutritious as possible, but am unable to provide immigrants with the amounts of cereal and milk that is being requested for their large households. I would like to see an HPNAP increase. -- **Anna Castillo, Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Food Pantry**
- There is a continuing need to access funds to purchase food. The changes at America's Second Harvest and the small amounts of food at TEFAP and Food Bank are causes for real concern. The cost of food relentlessly goes up while grants either go down or remain stagnant. Also funds for personnel are hard to come by. One of the most basic of needs continues to get short shifted - if one can't purchase food they are in a lot of trouble. Food Stamps are at an all-time low in amount... -- **Christy Robb, Hour Children, Food Pantry**
- Our agency is working with Just Food to explore ways to get locally grown produce to our program. In general, we do not turn people away..If the budget is tight, we reduce the variety of foods on the bag and buy less expensive produce. At one point in 2006, we had to close the program on alternate weeks to meet the budget at the end of the fiscal year. It is very difficult to replace operating costs once they are cut, or to meet new needs. We do want to receive fresh produce, but we often find donated produce from the 2 main NYC agencies to be problematic. We find the various sources of operating support to be very unstable and insufficient. -- **Regina Kirk, St. Cecilia's Food Pantry**

- Our agency is working with Just Food to explore ways to get locally grown produce to our program. In general, we do not turn people away..If the budget is tight, we reduce the variety of foods on the bag and buy less expensive produce. At one point in 2006, we had to close the program on alternate weeks to meet the budget at the end of the fiscal year. Around 500 households were not served as a result. We have had to shift costs from staff to food, so we are understaffed. It is very difficult to replace operating costs once they are cut, or to meet new needs. -- **Jeanne Mcgettigan, Washington Heights Ecumenical Food Pantry**
- TEFAP has been almost nonexistent this year. Fortunately, we rely more on other sources and haven't been hit as hard as other food pantries. – **Lucia Russett, Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Food Pantry**

Appendix 2: 2007 Survey Letter & Questionnaire



Dear Emergency Food Provider:

Last year – with your help – we collected surveys from 305 soup kitchens and food pantries citywide. As a result, your struggle to feed your neighbors received coverage from almost every major television station and newspaper, and obtained increased attention from many elected officials, including Mayor Bloomberg.

Help us do it again!

Attached here are **NYCCAH's annual hunger survey and needs assessment survey**. As always, these surveys include questions about your program and the customers/clients you serve. All your information will be kept confidential and anonymous. Best of all, if you have an Internet connection, you can quickly fill them out online at www.nyccah.org/survey.

If you prefer to complete the paper survey, please return it to the person who gave it to you, or else fax it to us at (212) 825-0267 or mail it to: NYCCAH, 16 Beaver Street, 3rd Floor, New York, New York 10004. **The deadline for responding is Friday, November 2nd.**

If you have any questions or would like a visit to help complete the survey, call us at 212-825-0028 x217. **If you have already received and completed this survey, thank you. Remember, information is power.** Together, we can help your clients get that power.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg
Executive Director

2007 Survey of NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

**PLEASE consider completing this survey online instead of on paper!
It's quick, and easy! Go to www.nyccah.org/survey.**

Otherwise, return this completed survey by **November 2** to the person who brought it to you, or mail it to NYCCAH, 16 Beaver Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10004, or fax it to 212.825.0267. Questions? Call us at 212.825.0028, ext. 217.

Section 1: Preferred Contact Information

1. Your name: _____

2. Your title / role: _____

3. Your food program / agency formal name:

4. Where do you serve or distribute food? (not your mailing address, if different)

Street address: _____

City: _____, State: NY Zip: _____

5. Phone number of agency / program: () -

6. Fax Number of agency / program: () -

7. Email Address:

8. Website Address:

9. In what borough do you serve or distribute food?

Manhattan

Queens

Brooklyn

Staten Island

Bronx

10. Is your agency / program mailing address the same or different from where you serve food?

Same

Different

11. If you answered "Different" above, what is your agency / program mailing address?

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Section 2: Basic Program Information

12. Is your food program faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically located in a religious institution (like a church, mosque or synagogue)?

Yes

No

13. What kind of food program do you run? (Check ONE)

soup kitchen

food pantry

	Monday (check all times that apply)	Tuesday (check all times that apply)	Wednesday (check all times that apply)	Thursday (check all times that apply)	Friday (check all times that apply)	Saturday (check all times that apply)	Sunday (check all times that apply)
12 – 6 a.m.							
6 – 7 a.m.							
7 – 8 a.m.							
8 - 9 a.m.							
9 – 10 a.m.							
10 – 11 a.m.							
11 a.m. – Noon							
Noon – 1 p.m.							
1 – 2 p.m.							
2 – 3 p.m.							
3 – 4 p.m.							
4 – 5 p.m.							
5 – 6 p.m.							
6 – 7 p.m.							
7 – 8 p.m.							
8 p.m. –12 a.m.							

both a soup kitchen and a food pantry

other type of emergency food program (explain) _____

14. When do you provide food? (If you run both a soup kitchen and food pantry, fill out both this chart and the identical one in the **Appendix**)

Schedule is for: Soup kitchen Food Pantry (Check ONE)

This schedule applies to (check all that apply):

- First week of the month Second week of the month
 Third week of the month Fourth week of the month

15. Is your food program open to the public (either by walk-in or referral)?

- Yes
 No

16. How many staff does your food program employ (including yourself)?

- # ___ full time paid
 # ___ part time paid
 # ___ full time unpaid
 # ___ part time unpaid

17. Does your agency run food programs at multiple sites?

- Yes
 No

Section 3: Program Demand

18. Does your program currently distribute enough food to meet your demand? (check ONE)

- Yes, we DO distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
 No, we DO NOT distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
 Unsure

19. If you answered "No" above, which of the following statements best describes your current situation? (check ONE)

- If we received more food, we would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food we distribute.
 Even if we received more food, we would not have enough capacity to increase the amount of food we distribute.
 I do not know if we have the capacity to distribute more food.

20. Please indicate how the number of people you serve has changed in the last year. For each line, check the box that is closest to the correct answer.

In the last year... (Oct. 2006–Sept. 2007)	<i>Greatly decreased</i>	<i>Somewhat decreased</i>	<i>No change</i>	<i>Somewhat increased</i>	<i>Greatly increased</i>	<i>Unsure</i>
Overall number of people needing food						
Homeless people						
People with paid employment						
Families with children						
Senior citizens (age 65+)						
Immigrants						

21. For SOUP KITCHENS: How many MEALS did you provide? (total should equal sum of columns)

Time period	<i>Children (under 18)</i>	<i>Adults (18–64)</i>	<i>Seniors (65+)</i>	<i>Total (must equal the sum of all 3 columns)</i>
All of 2003				
All of 2004				
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
September 2006				
September 2007 (estimated)				
The first six months of 2007				
Estimated for all of 2007				

22. ALL PROGRAMS: How many PEOPLE did you serve? (total should equal sum of columns)

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Children (under 18)</i>	<i>Adults (18–64)</i>	<i>Seniors (65+)</i>	<i>Total (must equal the sum of all 3 columns)</i>
All of 2003				
All of 2004				
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
September 2006				
September 2007 (estimated)				
The first six months of 2007				
Estimated for all of 2007				

23. In order to answer the previous questions, how did you get your answers?

- A count of non-duplicated individuals (only one person is counted even if they receive food more than one time)
- A count of the total people served (a individual may be counted more than once)

24. Were you forced to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed to each person, or limit your hours of operation because you lacked enough resources...

At any time in 2005? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2006? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2007? Yes No Unsure

25. If you were forced to turn people away at any time, how many do you estimate were turned away? (total should equal sum of columns)

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Children (under 18)</i>	<i>Adults (18–64)</i>	<i>Seniors (65+)</i>	<i>Total (total should equal sum of columns)</i>
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
September 2006				
September 2007 (estimated)				
The first six months of 2007				
Estimated for all of 2007				

26. How do you think the demand for food at your program will change in the next six months?

- Will greatly increase Will increase somewhat Will stay about the same
 Will decrease somewhat Will greatly decrease Unsure

Section 4: Program Resources

27. How have your resources changed in the last year (October 2006–September 2007)? For each line, check the box that is closest to the correct answer.

	<i>Greatly decreased</i>	<i>Somewhat decreased</i>	<i>No change</i>	<i>Somewhat increased</i>	<i>Greatly increased</i>	<i>Unsure / Don't know</i>
Government food & money						
Private food & money						
Total food & money						
Paid staff						
Unpaid staff / volunteers						

28. How often do you or your staff spend personal money on your food program?
(check ONE)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Unsure / Don't know

29. Does your food program currently receive food or funding from any of the following sources?

EFAP (NYC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
HPNAP (NY State) awarded through the Food Bank,	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure

United Way, Catholic Charities, or other sources	Unsure		
TEFAP (USDA) delivered by the Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Food Bank For NYC / Food for Survival (not including any of the above)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
City Harvest	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Religious congregations (either your own or another)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Public food drives	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Foundation grants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Other government grants (including direct funding from politicians)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Individual gifts / special events	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		
Other (explain) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unsure		

31. **For food pantries only:** Please estimate the dollar value of food an average family can receive from your program in one month: \$_____

32. Would you like to improve the nutritional content and quality of the foods you serve at your program?

- Yes
- No

33. If yes, please indicate what factors would limit your ability to do so. (check all that apply)

- Lack of monetary resources.
- Lack of resources from your regular food distributor.
- Lack of knowledge

34. How can nutrition be BEST improved in your food program? (check ONE)

- We would like to receive more fresh fruits and vegetables.
- We would like our food sources to have more nutritious canned and dried foods.

- We would like help with nutrition education for our employees.
- We would like help with nutrition education for our clients.
- Other (explain)

Section 5: Other Comments

35. Please provide any additional comments. Feel free to attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

If you run both a soup kitchen and a food pantry, please use this chart to list the hours of the program that was not covered in Question 14:

Schedule is for: Soup kitchen Food Pantry (Check ONE)

This schedule applies to (check all that apply):

- First week of the month Second week of the month
 Third week of the month Fourth week of the month

Thank You!

	Monday (check all times that apply)	Tuesday (check all times that apply)	Wednesday (check all times that apply)	Thursday (check all times that apply)	Friday (check all times that apply)	Saturday (check all times that apply)	Sunday (check all times that apply)
12 – 6 a.m.							
6 – 7 a.m.							
7 – 8 a.m.							
8 - 9 a.m.							
9 – 10 a.m.							
10 – 11 a.m.							
11 a.m. – Noon							
Noon – 1 p.m.							
1 – 2 p.m.							
2 – 3 p.m.							
3 – 4 p.m.							
4 – 5 p.m.							
5 – 6 p.m.							
6 – 7 p.m.							
7 – 8 p.m.							
8 p.m. – 12 a.m.							

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, we thank the hundreds of soup kitchens and food pantries that took great care and time to answer our survey.

The Coalition Against Hunger is extremely grateful to the Altria Group, Inc. for funding this survey.



Altria

The Coalition Against Hunger is especially grateful to **volunteers** who put in long hours entering and editing this data:

Clem Herschel
Melisa Harclerode
Marie Jeannot
Emily Sun

A very special thanks to the Coalition Against Hunger's **2007-2008 Americorps*VISTA Team**, without whom this survey work would not have occurred:

Jessica Decker
Andrea Dispenza
Michael Paone
Lauren Pyatt
Beth Selcov
Malika Simmons
Kendra Simonton
Colin Shive
Sandy Su
Betty Tamaisar
Valeria Torrez
Alexia Whitcombe

This report features survey, city and federal data compiled by staff at the NYC Coalition Against Hunger:

Joel Berg, Executive Director
Carrette Perkins, Director of Program

New York City Coalition Against Hunger

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel B. Ripps (Chair), The Development Resource Group, Inc.
Maureen F. Sheehan (Secretary), Part Of The Solution (P.O.T.S.)
Jeffrey N. Nichols, MD (Treasurer), Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
Timothy Brosnan, Moody's Investors Service
Bisi Iderabdullah, IMANI HOUSE, Inc.
Christina Pak, McKee Nelson LLP
Lewis B. Straus, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (retired)
Pastor Carol Vedral, The Father's Heart Ministries
Jacquelyn Wideman, The Charles Edward Cook Center For Human Services, Inc.

New York City Coalition Against Hunger, 16 Beaver Street, 3rd Floor, New York, New York, 10004,
(212) 825-0028, fax (212) 825-0267. www.nyccah.org