



YCP's Pantry Program is New York City's largest community-based food pantry and is designed to meet the needs of our families by providing culturally-appropriate and nutritiously-balanced food.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In the past year, the Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) was able to expand emergency food distribution to the record level of 1.7 million meals, in part because of our successful fundraising efforts and the additional, significant cost-cutting measures we adopted. We have worked hard to do more with less during these extremely difficult financial times, knowing that client needs will only increase going forward.

To control food expenditures at a time of spiraling wholesale food costs, we instituted competitive bidding with four food wholesalers (including The Food Bank for New York City); relied on City Harvest for fresh produce; and conducted year-round food drives in conjunction with our religious sponsoring organizations and area schools.

We relied heavily on volunteers in both program and administrative activities. Our 11,809 volunteers provided 83,860 hours of service over the course of the year. Recruitment, support and retention of this large cadre of volunteers thus became our greatest vehicle for containing and reducing personnel costs.

Despite these challenges, we can assure you, our dedicated supporters, that we will continue to operate our anti-hunger programs and related support services with a view toward self-sufficiency and dignity, as well as in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

With the support and encouragement of kind friends like you, we are committed to maintain the quality of our services for the expanding number of clients who will need our services in the coming year.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season from the entire YCP family.

Sincerely,



SHERRELL ANDREWS  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



STEPHEN GRIMALDI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) is dedicated to reducing hunger while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. YCP champions the cause of the hungry through food pantry and meal distribution programs, nutrition education, basic hygiene services, homeless support, and related services. YCP's community based programs focus on East Harlem and other underserved communities throughout New York City.





# YCP's Scope of Services

**Pantry Program** YCP's Pantry Program is New York City's largest community-based food pantry and is designed to meet the needs of our families by providing culturally-appropriate and nutritionally-balanced food.

Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, YCP distributes grocery packages to nearly 2000 families.

Our unique Saturday program is able to serve the working poor and those participating in education or training programs.

Volunteers prepare nutritionally-balanced bags of groceries that provide each family member three meals a day for three days.

A typical Pantry bag includes non-perishable items such as juice, cereal, milk, pasta and/or rice, beans, canned vegetables and fruits, miscellaneous items such as soup, snacks, and condiments, as well as perishable items such as meat/poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen vegetables and bread.

**Project Dignity** Project Dignity is designed to meet other needs of homeless and hungry individuals in our community and consists of a range of services designed to meet the most basic needs of YCP's clients— food, shelter, hygiene services—as well as the larger, more challenging issues they face—long-term housing, health care, benefits and employment. The overall goal of the Program is to serve as a bridge back to health, well-being and self-sufficiency for our homeless and hungry clients.

The Dignity Meal Program serves breakfast Monday through Friday for 200 individuals (sometimes even more on pancake day!) and dinner on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for approximately 300 people.

Beyond providing nutritious food, the Dignity Meal Program offers participants a chance to sit, eat and socialize in a relaxing, safe and convivial atmosphere that may be their only reprieve from the stress of being homeless or struggling.

The case manager provides counseling and referral services, working with up to 50 meal program guests weekly to help them obtain housing, jobs, entitlements, substance abuse treatment or other medical and social services. Additionally, we invite various community outreach workers, such as Lenox Hill Neighborhood House job counselors, Food Stamp advocates, and Settlement Health HIV counselors, to assist clients during meal programs.

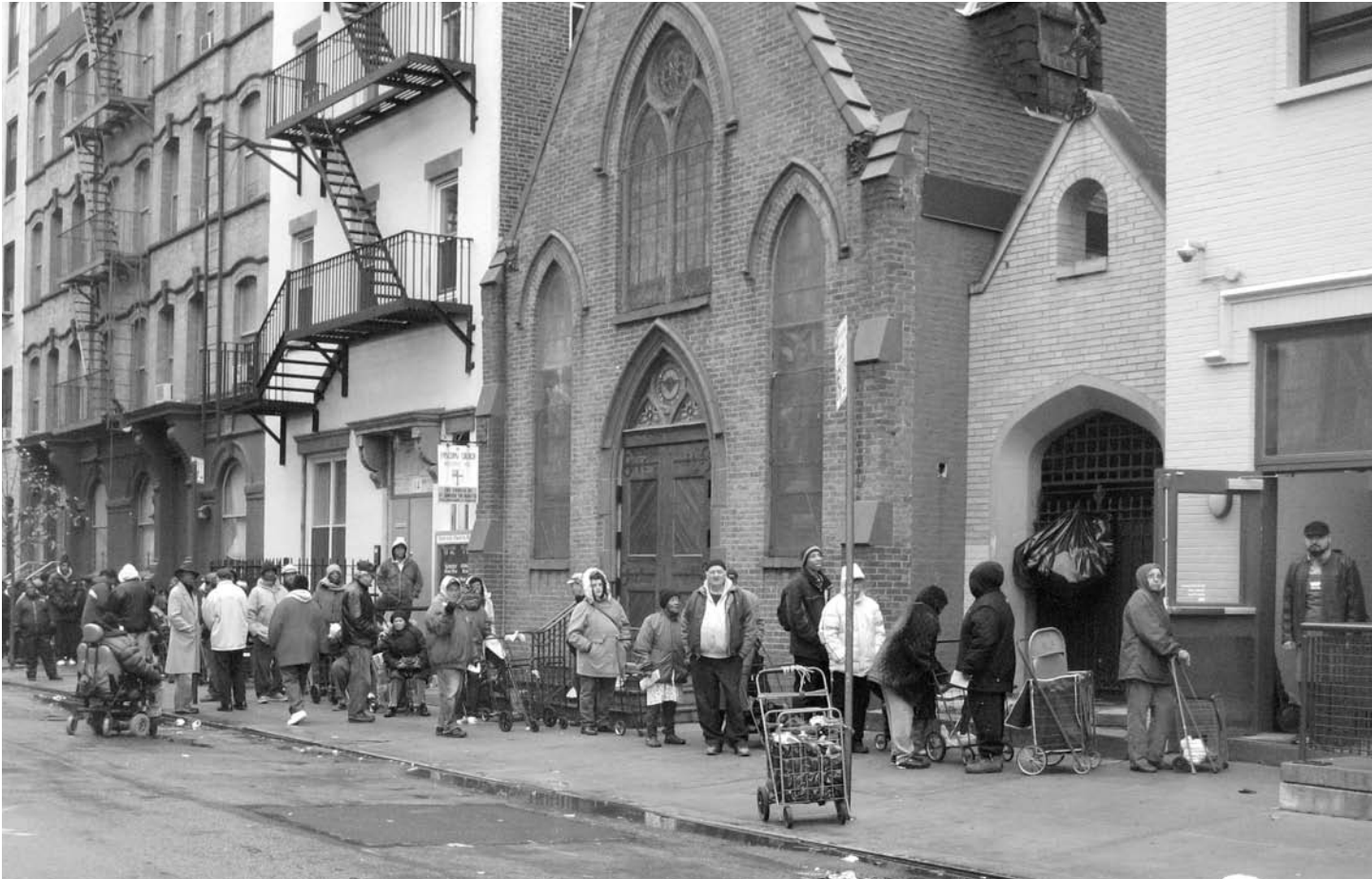
**24|7 YCP** Those who come to 24|7 YCP are eligible to receive an emergency grocery package that provides nine nonperishable meals per household member, and, if needed, a brown bag meal is available to consume immediately.

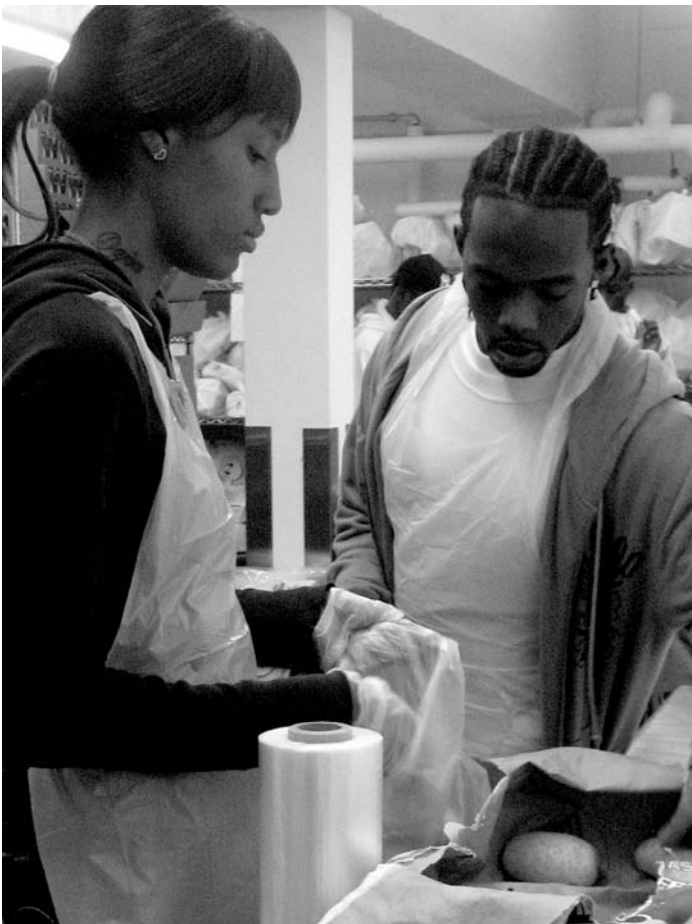
Families and individuals access 24|7 YCP for emergency food assistance when other pantries are unable to provide assistance or are closed. They are either referred by one of the more than 400 agencies citywide that use 24|7 YCP as a resource, or they come to us through our most powerful outreach tool: word-of-mouth. 24|7 YCP is currently operating 16 hours a day, 365 days a year. We are seeking \$75,000 in annual support to restore this program as the city's only emergency food program that never closes.





For Thanksgiving 2007, YCP set a most ambitious goal for the agency and our donors. We hoped to be able to provide Thanksgiving turkeys to 1400 families. Our supporters more than rose to the challenge, and we were able to give more than 1800 YCP families turkeys for the Holiday.





YCP continues to make every effort to avoid purchasing highly processed foods, such as canned beef stew, canned ravioli, and high sugar cereals, etc. When purchasing canned products, YCP opts to buy “no salt added” canned vegetables and “in its own juice” canned fruit. YCP also provides Pantry families with low-fat, 1% shelf-stable milk at least twice a month.

At our breakfast and dinner programs, salt and sugar are not included in the preparation of the meals. Menus for these programs are designed to provide culturally appropriate meals that are low sodium and reduced fat. Through YCP’s annual customer service satisfaction survey, we are able to gauge client preferences, while still maintaining the high nutritional quality of our meals.

YCP is now an active participant in Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer’s “Go Green East Harlem” campaign. Our involvement has allowed YCP to bring the current food crisis, our direct experience with it, and an accurate picture of East Harlem families to the Borough President’s attention. By participating in this campaign, we have also gained access to “Health Bucks” for our Pantry families. “Health Bucks” are annual \$2 coupons provided by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for use at local farmers’ markets.

# GRANTS AND GIFTS

With the generous support of all our donors, YCP has continued to reduce hunger and provide needed support for thousands of low-income New Yorkers. We are committed to continuing to provide efficient and effective services and it is with great sincerity that we thank you for sharing in our mission.

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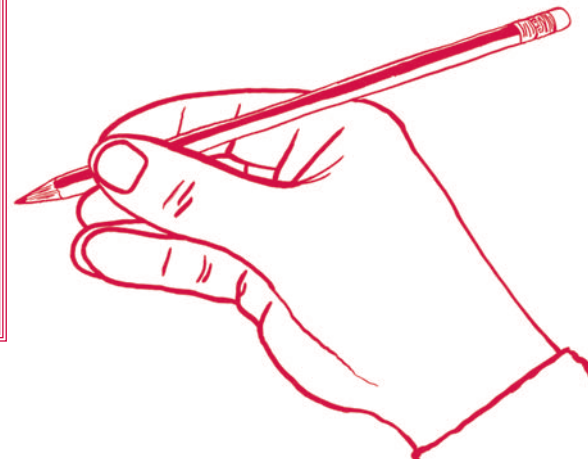
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### HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO YCP

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that YCP is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is a publicly-supported charity under Section 509(a)(1). YCP therefore qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction allowed to individual donors. If you would like to discuss Will bequests or other planned giving techniques, in order to provide YCP with a more stable long-term financial base, please contact Director of Development, Susie Hanchett at 917.720.9707 or [shanchett@ycp.org](mailto:shanchett@ycp.org).



# Didi and Oscar Schafer are an enormously generous New York couple

Didi has been involved with YCP for over 15 years. Her original involvement was through her daughters and the dances run by the Pantry. Her commitment to the Pantry grew from there, and she joined the board. Didi says she expects her girls will follow in her footsteps and become strong YCP supporters.

Both Didi and Oscar are dedicated to doing things that enhance the lives of as many New Yorkers as possible, and they are both strongly supportive of each other's causes. For example, Oscar's love of music has led him to sponsor the N.Y. Philharmonic's Concert in the Park series for the past 6 years. Didi's deep compassion propels her to help as many people as possible live with the dignity that YCP works to provide for its clients. She never ceases to be amazed by the organization and commitment of all those associated with the Pantry.

Didi's great love and respect for the Yorkville Common Pantry and its mission means that an increasing number of needy New Yorkers are able to benefit from the many services it provides, and hopes that her own enthusiasm will inspire others to contribute their time and resources.



## We wish to thank all our...

### Erickson and Gooss Retired from YCP Board



At the June 2008 annual meeting of the YCP Board of Directors, John Erickson and Barbara Gooss received sterling silver ladels commemorating their years of outstanding service on the Board.

John Erickson served on the YCP Board from 1995-2008. In 1996, he chaired the Long Range Planning Committee and he also served as Board Chairperson from 2001-2004. As Vice Chair of the Board for six years, he advocated for sound fiscal practices and comprehensive financial reporting. A retired corporate attorney, John also helped negotiate a long-term lease for YCP's East Harlem headquarters that enabled the organization to move forward with a four million dollar renovation project.

During her long-term involvement with YCP, Barbara Gooss was involved in myriad important activities. She was very active, for instance, in several fundraising activities and she co-chaired the organization's Development Committee from 2001-2006.

Beginning in 1995, moreover, Barbara chaired and co-chaired a number of highly successful theater benefits – including Sunset Boulevard, Movin Out, Mama Mia, Billy Crystal's 700 Sundays, Aida, and The Odd Couple. Barbara also helped institute the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade dances benefiting YCP. We're not done: Barbara also organized and often chaired our Annual Spring Benefits – including the 2002 Tastes of New York, and the Tastes of Spring at the Mercedes Benz showroom.

The final highlight of Barbara's service at the Pantry was the 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2006, which she co-chaired with Hilary Brown. This gala, honoring Rebecca Robertson and Veronica Stubbs, brought in a record \$218,000 for YCP. In addition to her outstanding development work, Barbara also served on YCP's Executive, Finance, and Nominating Committees.

# 37 Years of Volunteer Service

Still going strong in their 80's, Hilda Rosenthal and Pat Kelly continue to provide weekly volunteer service in YCP's food pantry programs.

Pat Kelly, a member of the YCP Board since 1982, began volunteering at the Pantry following her 1993 retirement as a hospital social worker. Every Thursday Pat happily bagged rice, potatoes and bread, stuffed bags of groceries and distributed them to clients. Pat presently welcomes all the Thursday clients and electronically scans their Pantry membership cards. She most enjoys her interaction with YCP's clients and their children, as well as the relationships she has built with fellow volunteers, Board members and YCP's staff. Thursday is a special day for Pat Kelly and all the people who have come to know her during the past 15 years.

Hilda Rosenthal started volunteering at YCP's East 109th Street facility in 1986, where she cooked, packaged, and distributed food to families on the second floor. She worked closely with the Abraham family during those early years, and when the Helene Abraham Award for Volunteer Service was established, Hilda was its first recipient.

Following completion of YCP's first renovation project in 1992, its programs were moved downstairs to the gymnasium where Hilda continued to cook, package, and distribute food to families participating in the Thursday food pantry program.

Hilda subsequently assumed the responsibility of manually checking-in Pantry families' membership cards and, following the installation of computerized cards, now "swipes in" families every week.

Throughout YCP's 2006/2007 second building renovation, Hilda, along with the clients and staff, relocated to 117th Street - returning to our lovely, "new and improved" building in Spring 2007.

When Hilda and Pat first started distributing food at YCP, 100 families a week were being provided with food. Today, they each check-in 300-400 families weekly. It is a safe bet that they will still be volunteering at YCP well into their 90's.



## ... wonderful supporters



## New Volunteers

On Friday, June 6, eight young women from the Inwood House Maternity Residence volunteered at the Friday Food Pantry packing vegetables and bagels and then handing out bags of food to the seniors and disabled who take part in the Friday Pantry. The girls, themselves foster care and homeless youth, loved their experience and worked until the very end, not wanting even to take a break because there were still clients to be served. One young woman remarked: "Handing out food to the homeless at Yorkville Common Pantry was a humbling experience, one that I think everyone should experience." Said another: "From spending a day with YCP, I learned that people in need work even harder to help other people in need.

Doing all that work made me feel wonderful inside just to know that I'm helping a large amount of families maintain their health by packing daily bags." YCP clients in turn seemed to appreciate the smiling young women who were eager to serve them.

# Volunteers

joined together to create

the Pantry. This small group of dedicated people has since evolved into hundreds of volunteer groups and individuals contributing their talent and time towards the goal of reducing hunger in our community.

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Our 19 religious sponsoring organizations not only provide volunteers, Board members, funds, food and other donations, but further infuse our work with profound meaning and reward. We consider these organizations to be caring members of the extended YCP family, and feel very fortunate to have their dedication and involvement.

▪ The Brick Presbyterian Church ▪ The Church of St. Edward the Martyr ▪ The 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. 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 ▪

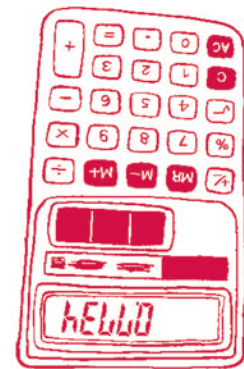
## SCHOOLS

Throughout the years we have built relationships with nearby schools that continue to strengthen and expand the YCP family. Community service interns support our efforts and educate their peers about poverty and hunger. Groups from various schools organize food drives, or donate toys, Easter baskets, books and clothing for YCP families. Their commitment is always inspiring and tremendously appreciated.

Abraham Joshua Heschel School ▪ Abraham Lincoln School ▪ Alexander Robertson School ▪ All Souls School ▪ Allen-Stevenson School ▪ Appalachian State University ▪ Ark Nursery School ▪ Bank Street College of Education ▪ Baruch College ▪ Campus High School ▪ Belmont Academy High School ▪ Bronx Academy of Letters ▪ Bronx International High School ▪ Brooklyn Tech ▪ Bushwick High School ▪ Central Park East Middle School ▪ Central Synagogue May Family Nursery School ▪ Children's All Day School ▪ City College ▪ Collegiate School ▪ Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School ▪ Columbia University ▪ Convent of the Sacred Heart ▪ Cristo Rey New York High School ▪ De La Salle Academy ▪ Eleanor Roosevelt High School ▪ Epiphany Community Nursery School ▪ Epiphany School ▪ Ethical Culture Fieldston ▪ Fordham University ▪ Heschell School Horace Mann Hunter College ▪ Hunter College High School ▪ Iona College ▪ Isaac Newton MS ▪ John Adams High School ▪ Joint School Consortium ▪ Junior High School 13/Spins 4 Program ▪ Junior High School 54 ▪ Life Science High School ▪ Lycée Français de New York ▪ MS 45 ▪ MS 584 ▪ Mandell Nursery School ▪ Manhattan Country School ▪ Martin Luther King Jr. High School ▪ Marymount School ▪ Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School ▪ New York University ▪ Orangeville District School ▪ P.S. 146 ▪ P.S. 158 ▪ PS 179 ▪ P.S. 290 ▪ P.S. 57/Spenville Program ▪ P.S. 6 ▪ PS 86 ▪ PS 179 ▪ Pace University ▪ Park Avenue Christian Church Day School ▪ Parkside School ▪ Philosophy Day School ▪ Ramaz School ▪ Regis High School ▪ Resurrection Episcopal Day School ▪ Resurrection School ▪ Riverdale Country School ▪ SAR High School ▪ Rudolf Steiner School ▪ Seton Day Care Center ▪ Solomon Hechel ▪ St. Bernard's School ▪ St. Ignatius Loyola School ▪ St. Joseph's School ▪ St. Stephen of Hungary School ▪ St. Thomas More Playgroup ▪ Stephen Gaynor School ▪ Talented and Gifted School ▪ Teak School ▪ Temple Emanu-El Nursery School ▪ Temple Israel's Early Childhood Learning Center ▪ The Birch Wathen Lenox School ▪ The Brearley School ▪ The Brick Church School ▪ The Browning School ▪ The Buckley School ▪ The Caedmon School ▪ The Calhoun School ▪ The Cathedral School ▪ The Chapin School ▪ The Children's Storefront School ▪ The Collegiate School ▪ The Dalton School ▪ The Dwight School ▪ The East Harlem School at Exodus House ▪ The Family School ▪ The Family School West ▪ The Gateway School of New York ▪ The Gillen Brewer School ▪ The Hewitt School ▪ The International Preschool ▪ The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Day School ▪ The Madison Playgroup ▪ The Nightingale-Bamford School ▪ The Spence School ▪ The Town School ▪ The William Woodward, Jr. Nursery School ▪ Trevor Day School ▪ Trinity School ▪ West Virginia University ▪ York Avenue Preschool ▪

## Goods & Services

Allure Lingerie ▪ American Folk Art Museum ▪ Sherrell Andrews ▪ Angel Nail ▪ Asphalt Green ▪ Beautiful Flowers ▪ Bed, Bath & Beyond ▪ Best Buy ▪ Big Apple Circus ▪ BLT Prime ▪ Susan Bohan ▪ Bumble and bumble ▪ Butterfield Market ▪ Café des Artistes ▪ California Pizza Kitchen ▪ Candle 79 Restaurant ▪ Carlisle Collection ▪ Chamber Music Society ▪ Chelsea Piers ▪ Circus ▪ Corbin's Crusaders ▪ Craftsteak New York ▪ The Daily Show with Jon Stewart ▪ Lisa Drayer ▪ Dr. Joseph A. Cucci ▪ Darrell Kate ▪ Daryl Wilkerson ▪ David Burke ▪ Donatella ▪ Diane Schaub ▪ Due Restaurant ▪ DWI Holdings, Inc. ▪ EFAP ▪ Embassy Wine's & Spirits ▪ Equinox ▪ ESPN Zone ▪ Eva's Garden Flowers ▪ Felidia Restaurant ▪ Fiesta Dinnerware ▪ Fitness Express ▪ Homer Laughlin Company ▪ Inform Fitness ▪ Jeff Stein Salon ▪ Jerome Florists ▪ John Barry's Restaurant ▪ Jonathan Adler ▪ Juliano Coffee ▪ Keesal & Matthew ▪ Kenneth Cole ▪ La Boeuf a la Mode ▪ La Grenouille ▪ Laura Geller Make Up Studio ▪ Lester's of NYC ▪ Lia Schor Skin Care ▪ Lobel's Prime Meats ▪ L'Occitane ▪ Lord & Taylor ▪ Manhattan Fruiter ▪ Maxim Semynov Jewelry ▪ McEntyre Public Relations ▪ Mercedes Benz ▪ Metamorphosis Day Spa ▪ Mezzanine Day Spa ▪ Sylvester F. Miniter ▪ Modell's Sporting Goods ▪ Moët Chandon ▪ Nancy Blakeman ▪ Nancy Koltes at Home ▪ Neda and Pericles Navab ▪ New York Yoga ▪ Nolita Baby ▪ NY Philharmonic ▪ Peter Pront ▪ Portifino Grille ▪ Radu Physical Culture ▪ Rao's ▪ Sharz Café ▪ Stratton Mountain ▪ Merrill Stubbs ▪ Sunshine Cinemas ▪ TEFAP ▪ US Air ▪



How can you Volunteer at the Pantry?

Please contact Gladys Ortiz, Volunteer Coordinator, at 917.720.9710, if you would like to become part of this unique experience.



In an effort to improve the nutritive value of the foods provided through our Pantry Program, YCP works closely with City Harvest to ensure that we receive the maximum amount of fresh produce available to us. City Harvest usually delivers 12 times a month to YCP. Additionally, in the weeks that City Harvest is unable to provide fresh produce, YCP makes every effort to make purchases from private wholesalers so Pantry families consistently receive produce in their Pantry packages. The use of fresh produce is also promoted and encouraged through our CookShop program. CookShop is a nutrition education curriculum presented in collaboration with Food Change/Food Bank for New York City. Each month, YCP conducts three cooking workshops for Pantry families and a fourth workshop geared toward children. These classes teach clients how to cook with seasonal produce and educate them on the nutritional value of the fruits and vegetables featured in the recipe. In the past, the workshops were presented at the beginning of a designated Pantry distribution day. However, these classes have become so popular that they are now conducted on non-distribution days in order to allow all clients who wish to attend to do so. An average of 30 clients participate in each CookShop workshop.

In conjunction with Mt. Sinai Medical Center, YCP hosted a health fair on May 8, 2008, that offered clients a variety of services including: nutrition counseling, blood pressure testing, blood glucose and cholesterol screenings. 220 of YCP's clients participated, and Mt. Sinai provided 15 staff members and 2 physicians to provide the counseling, testing and screening services.

In FY08, 80% of food purchased was acquired from the Food Bank for New York City through both its wholesale line and through the Shared Maintenance Cost Food Bank; and 20% of food purchased

came from private wholesalers: Driscoll, Ace Endico, and Hyco. 50% of food donations came from the Food Bank for New York City; 15% of donated food came from City Harvest; 13% came from the Federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); 8% came from the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP); and 14% came from food drives conducted by



YCP's sponsoring organizations, private schools and corporations.

The primary source of food for YCP's programs has always been the Food Bank for New York City. Their wholesale department continues to demonstrate the capacity to acquire food at the best prices. Food Bank also has other lines from which to draw including Food Bank donated food, EFAP, and TFAP. In addition, YCP uses three private wholesalers: Driscoll, Ace Endico, and Hyco. Because we have business relationships with these three wholesalers, YCP is able to comparison shop for the best price for common products required by both the Pantry and Meal Programs, including yogurt, 1% shelf-stable milk, and fresh produce. Through our special relationship with City Harvest, YCP receives three deliveries

of food each week, primarily of fresh produce. As a result, YCP is able to offset the cost of fresh produce purchases. We also receive donated food from our 19 religious sponsoring organizations, East Side private and public schools, businesses and corporations who also provide us with volunteers.

YCP's Pantry Program provided ongoing supplemental food assistance to 3,827 families, comprising 9,867 individuals for a total of 62,513 visits.

24|7 YCP provided emergency Pantry packages to 4,396 families.

Our Pantry services, including 24|7YCP, provided 1,627,554 meals; 83,083 meals were provided in our Soup Kitchen; and 13,647 brown bags were distributed through 24|7YCP during the hours of 7:00 p.m. and midnight. Our cumulative meal distribution for this grant year was 1,724,287 meals (up 18% over last year).

Through our Project Dignity program, we provided clients with 5,442 showers; and laundry services were provided to 2,202 clients. The Project Dignity Case Worker provided a variety of social services to 1,594 clients including employment assistance, drug counseling, detoxification referrals, psychiatric referrals, and counseling. More specifically, 155 clients were placed in temporary shelters; 220 clients were provided with housing assistance including Section 8 applications, housing searches and referrals for rental assistance; 15 formerly homeless clients were successfully placed in permanent housing. 116 clients received their mail at YCP. 120 clients received assistance with acquiring documentation necessary to apply for entitlements including birth certificates, state identification cards, and certificates of domestic partnership; 804 clients received assistance with applying for entitlements including public assistance, food stamps, and social security.

# YCP PROGRAMS

# YCP's Customer Advisory Board

YCP's Customer Advisory Board (CAB) is a dedicated group of Pantry Clients who advise YCP on the needs and concerns of the community. The CAB has had a busy year. Each season, members of the CAB work on the YCP CAB Newsletter. This year members wrote articles about tips for heart-healthy living, gardening, safety tips for celebrating Halloween, tips on low-impact exercise, personal stories about family holiday celebrations and, as with each newsletter, delicious recipes using products provided in YCP Pantry packages. Members of the CAB also generously volunteer their time to assist YCP with special events like our Thanksgiving turkey distribution, Christmas toy distribution and our first annual health fair. This year members of the CAB also started a sewing exchange class where Pantry members can share sewing and knitting techniques and materials. The class has been so popular, YCP is now providing space for the class every two weeks. In the coming year, YCP's CAB will be embarking on a new endeavor. Members will be attending community organizing workshops to provide them with the tools to effectively advocate for themselves with elected officials. CAB members excitedly look forward to an even fuller new year of newsletters, workshops, classes and volunteer activities.



## Janet

Janet is a 54 year old Puerto Rican woman and single mother living in East Harlem with her pre-teen daughter, Ana. Ana is an intelligent, gifted child who loves going to school and learning. With Public Assistance as her only source of income, Janet does the best she can to provide for her daughter. Following her husband's death, she found it difficult to manage resources and maintain her housing. She was evicted from her apartment, and she and Ana entered the shelter system where they lived for three years.

Janet and Ana have become regular participants in YCP's dinner program. Because Public Assistance is her only source of income, she requires YCP's meal program to supplement her food stamps. The Project Dignity Case Worker assisted Janet with her Section 8 application. Throughout their three year shelter stay, YCP provided Ana with clothing, school supplies and toys during the holidays.

In May 2008, Janet and Ana received great news. They were approved for an apartment in the New York City Housing Authority. While she never wanted to live in "the projects," Janet is grateful to have a home for herself and her daughter, and finally to be out of the shelter system. She has told us that her experience in the shelter system was not a good one, and she found it a very difficult environment in which to raise a child. Since moving into her own apartment, Janet has found employment and has transitioned from participating in our meal program to receiving ongoing supplemental food assistance from our Saturday Pantry for working families.

## Rebecca

Rebecca is a 37 year old Puerto Rican woman who has been a member of The Pantry for two years. In October 2007, she came to YCP for help because she was the victim of domestic violence. Her husband was the abuser, and she wanted to get out of the situation but felt she did not have the resources to leave. Rebecca was born here in New York City and married very young. Pregnant and mother to four children already (two boys and two girls), she thought it would be best for her family if she and her husband stayed together. She prayed her husband would change. But after a particularly violent episode, she turned to a YCP Pantry Case Worker for help. The Case Worker was able to assist Rebecca with getting into a confidential domestic violence shelter. When she left for the shelter, she couldn't take any clothing for her children or herself. She could take only her personal documents: state identification and birth certificates for her children.

In spite of leaving everything behind, she felt safe for the first time in a long time. After two months in the confidential domestic violence shelter, she was moved to a family shelter. During her stay, the YCP Case Worker was able to discreetly provide Rebecca with clothing and food. In December 2007, while in the shelter, Rebecca gave birth to a little boy. YCP was able to supply Rebecca with clothing, pampers and formula for her newborn son.

In March 2008, Rebecca and her children moved into their own apartment in East Harlem. To date, her husband has made no attempt to contact her. Finally, Rebecca is very happy to be living in her own apartment in peace with her kids. She continues to receive supplemental food from YCP on a regular basis.



## Senator Charles Schumer at YCP

On October 22, 2007 Senator Charles E. Schumer came to Yorkville Common Pantry to voice his support of the upcoming Farm Bill legislation. Surrounded by hunger advocates from throughout the city, including City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Senator Schumer highlighted the importance of an increase in federal funding for food banks throughout the nation.

## Senator John Edwards Visits YCP

On July 9, 2008, Senator John Edwards visited the Yorkville Common Pantry as Chair of Half in Ten, a joint campaign of ACORN, Center for American Progress Action Fund, Coalition on Human Needs, and Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. By supporting policies such as a higher minimum wage, child care assistance, and homeownership protection, Half in Ten aims to cut poverty in half in the next ten years.

Senator Edwards began the day with an interview on NPR's Brian Lehrer Show. The host asked him: "Any reason for this location in New York, out of all the pantries and soup kitchens?" Mr. Edwards responded: "It's a place where they are doing great work. It has been very effective over a long period of time. We thought it is an example of the good things that can be done."





# Dan Rather's Visit

In preparation for his Dan Rather Report story, "Eat to Live" (broadcast on August 5, 2008 on HGTV Television, Mr. Rather visited the Yorkville Common Pantry to interview staff and clients on Thursday, July 17, 2008. The following is an excerpt from the program's transcript that directly relates to this visit:

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**These days you might view the Big Apple as "A Tale of Two Cities." Here in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, one of the country's wealthiest neighborhoods, well to-do families drop hundreds of dollars on 4-course meals at 5-star restaurants...**

**But just a stone's throw farther north, a different picture emerges. This is East Harlem. And it's home to the Yorkville Common Pantry. And the lines here have never been so long. Rising food prices have driven thousands of area residents here for the first time... Yorkville Pantry's director, Daniel Reyes, hears their stories every day.**

**Daniel Reyes, Director of Programs, Yorkville Common Pantry**

There really is a food crisis and it is a reality in this country.

**Rather**

**You use the word crisis. Over statement?**

**Reyes**

I don't think so. It's just amazing for – you know, for folks who used to be able to afford a gallon of milk and now they're lucky if they can get themselves a quart you know and make that last.

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**In New York City, rents have been rising, and the cost of groceries over the past 12 months has increased by nearly 7%. For some basic foods - such as milk - even more. For people living on the margins, these cost of living increases are the difference between feeding themselves and having to come to a place like this.**

**Rather**

**You must go to supermarkets yourself and see the prices.**

**Reyes**

Yes. From my own experience just having to you know wanting to spend 20 bucks and it turns out to be \$40 you know it's just crazy. If I'm hurting you can imagine what a family of five living off of \$15,000 a year is experiencing.

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**We met up with take Sonia Asencio, a single mother of four who has relied on the pantry for the past six months.**

**Rather**

**What's the toughest thing for you to make? Toughest bill you have trouble meeting.**

**Sonia Asencio**

The food. The food is the toughest.

**Rather**

**Well the price of food's gone up quite a bit.**

**Asencio**

Yes. A great deal. I mean, I can go to the supermarket and spend over \$200. I have to buy milk, bread, eggs. I mean, they're growing kids, they eat. Especially the boys.

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**Asencio says she's worked since she was 13. But two years ago, a back injury left her disabled. At first, she was able to get by on disability checks. But as food prices started going up, the checks just weren't enough.**

**Rather**

**Well, how do you make it?**

**Asencio**

Um, it's not easy, but what are my choices? Do I let my children go hungry? Or do I tell my pride bye-bye and I come and sit here and wait 'til my name is called and I get some food.

**Rather**

**You tell your pride "bye-bye." Is that an issue with you?**

**Asencio**

Yes it is because I've always been able to do things, you know. I've always worked, I've supplied for my family. And to find myself in a situation where, I feel helpless—it's very difficult. It's difficult for my children to see me like that. I'm sorry.

**Rather**

**It's ok. You shouldn't feel embarrassed about coming here at all.**

**Asencio**

No, it's not so much embarrassment; it's the hardship. You know. When you're used to doing all the time, and everyone comes to you, and all of a sudden you have to

break down and ask for help, it—it's tough. The prices keep going up—gas, everything. And people can't afford anything. What's gonna happen 10 years from now? If I can't make it now, what happens later on?

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**Every family, like the Aencios, is guaranteed to leave here with a bag of groceries that will last them three days... this year, the pantry will provide food for 1.7 Million meals, that's 300,000 More than in 2007. Director Reyes says meeting the need has pushed up the Yorkville Pantry's costs by 30%... and NYC has 650 pantries just like Yorkville. Rising costs have forced a lot of them to turn people away. But Yorkville takes a different approach. To offset costs, the Pantry now gives less food to each household.**

**Reyes**

Even if it's down to the bare bones we still have something we can provide. And so it's milk maybe once a month you know fresh produce once a month if we can. Making sure that we can accommodate everybody.

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**Accommodating people like Larry Dudley. He's a veteran of the first gulf war. And even a smaller bag of groceries is a life saver for his family.**

**Larry Dudley, Gulf War Veteran**

It's a miracle, I mean, it's a blessing. Because if it wasn't for places like this, Dan, a lot of us would be out here starving, a lot of people probably be out in the street trying to feed their families. They'd be robbing, stealing, you see what I'm saying?

**Rather** *(voice over)*

**Neena Salley worked for the city of new york for 22 years until she became disabled. Today is her first visit to the Pantry.**

**Rather**

**Was that a big decision for you?**

**Neena Salley**

No. It wasn't a big decision especially when your cabinet is empty.

**Rather**

**Is the rising food prices what finally got you here?**

**Salley**

Yeah. The milk and the eggs, everything. You know, and meat. Forget it. Sometimes it's beans and, and it's rice, you know, for a day or two.

**Reyes**

This is our new reality. It's I don't think any of us can see this changing anytime soon. So I think it's important to understand that the emergency feeding system in this country is being stretched to its limits and we just can't turn a blind eye to it.





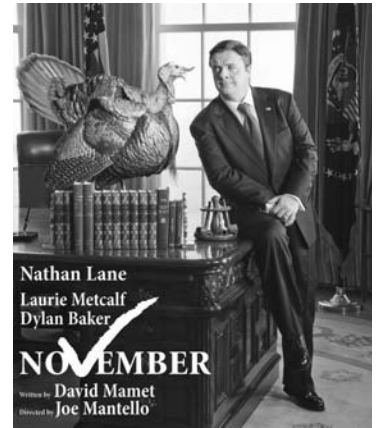
# Fall Benefit 2007

On October 24, 2007, YCP held its annual Fall Benefit at the New-York Historical Society. Guests enjoyed cocktails among the Henry Luce III Collection and, through a silent auction, bid on sports tickets, exceptional wine, cooking classes and Thanksgiving dinner for our clients, among other items.

Chaired by Hilary Hart Brown, Carol Hess, and Jamie Hirsh, this event was YCP's single most important fundraiser of the year. The auction, chaired by Randy Perskin, brought in additional, much needed revenue.

## Theatre Benefits

The Annual Theatre Benefits are an important source of funding for YCP.



YCP joins four other neighborhood charities to sponsor a 6th, 7th and 8th grade dance during the school year. These events are enthusiastically attended and at the same time contribute significantly to YCP funding. Parent chaperones, as well as students, come to know about the Pantry and have fun, too.



## HELENE ABRAHAM AWARD 2007



Since 2003, YCP has recognized exemplary community service by bestowing the Helene Abraham Award upon chosen members of our loyal volunteer corps. In 2007, our "Regular Thursday Volunteers" were honored with the award at our Fall Benefit. This cadre of dedicated supporters come to the Pantry every Thursday to pack bagels, distribute groceries, conduct blood pressure screening, and much more. We are deeply indebted to these members of our extended YCP family and look forward to many more years with them.



# FUND FOR THE FUTURE CONTRIBUTORS

## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE - \$3.2MILLION + ROBIN HOOD FOUNDATION

### \$200,000 +

VERONICA MALLORY STUBBS

### \$150,000 - \$199,999

DIDI AND OSCAR SCHAFFER

### \$100,000 - \$149,999

KARIN AND HENRY BARKHORN

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

BARBARA AND HENRY GOOSS

LINDA AND PAUL HOLT

RUTH HOROWITZ AND MICHAEL NACHMAN

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

SHERRELL ANDREWS AND ROB KUHBACH

CANDICE AND JOHN FRAWLEY

MARY AND LARRY McCAFFREY

REBECCA ROBERTSON AND BYRON KNIEF

JUDY AND TIM RUDDEROW

WENDY STEIN AND BART FRIEDMAN

THE SULLIVAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

### \$15,000 - \$24,999

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HELEN CHAPMAN AND ROBERT MONROE

MARILYN AND JAY LUBELL

ANNE AND JOHN MACKINNON

ELAINE AND ROBERT WEISS

### \$10,000 - \$14,999

SUSAN AND PETER KESSLER

MICHAEL MAGDOL

### \$7,500 - \$9,999

KATHY NALYWAKO

### \$5,000 - \$7,499

SUSAN AND PAUL BOHAN

LUCY VAN I. BERGE

KAREN AND JOHN ERICKSON

DRUCILLA HASKIN

STUART JOHNSON

CHERYL AND JAMES LEBENTHAL

ELINOR MANNUCCI

LITE SABIN

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

ANONYMOUS

EDWARD GALLAGHER

SUMNER GERARD FOUNDATION

CAROLYN HANDLER

CAROL ANN AND DOUGLAS MERCER

MARSHA AND PETER PRONT

SHIELA P. RAUCH

DIANE AND DARYL WILKERSON

LYNNE AND JOHN ZURCHER, JR.

### \$1,500 - \$2,499

HILARY AND PAUL BROWN

ROLAND WOODLAND

### \$1,000 - \$1,499

KAREN AND LEWIS ALTFEST

CHERYL BUNDY

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KAREN HSU

MIRIAM KLINGER

GRACE R. AND ALAN D.

MARCUS FOUNDATION

WENDY GARTNER SALLES

LAURA AND JAN WEISSBERG

### Up to \$999

ANONYMOUS

ANTONIA ABRAHAM

HARTLEY BERNSTEIN

WILLIE CARTER

CHRISTINE DARNELL

FRANK CRYSTAL & Co.

ELIZABETH GREEN

JAMIE HIRSH

PATRICIA M. KELLY

SUZANNE KIZIS AND DAVID WENGROD

ANN LOZMAN

JOSEPHINE MERCK

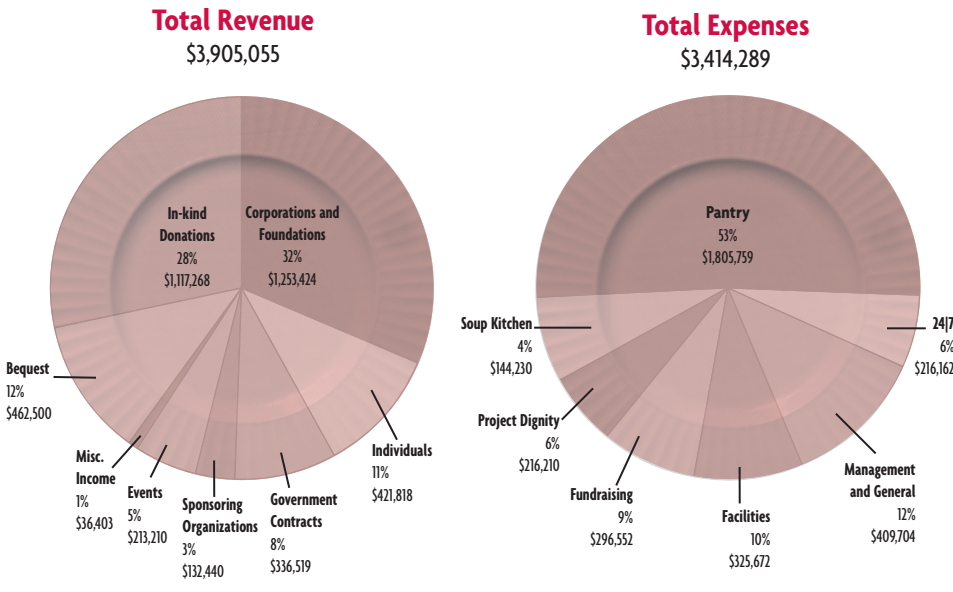
DOLORES MORRISSEY

MALLORY SPAIN

# Our Partners in the Community

YCP has been able to strengthen its linkages with allied support organizations that can assist in improving the quality of life of our families. **Mt. Sinai Medical Center's** community services have been able to bring screening services to YCP, including stroke pre-screening. **The Children's Aid Society** has provided our families with assistance in selecting an appropriate managed care program for their Medicaid/Medicare benefits. **Settlement Health** is providing free HIV/AIDS outreach material and testing to our breakfast program clients. **Food Change** has maintained Food Stamps pre-screening once a week and most exciting, YCP has collaborated with **New York City Coalition Against Hunger, Food Change & Human Resources Administration** to become a test site for a paperless food stamps application office. Families and Individuals can call Food Change's food stamp hotline and get pre-screened for food stamps. Then, rather than go to a city food stamps office, families and individuals can come to YCP to have their application processed in a welcoming environment. YCP is planning collaboration with the **Urban Justice Center** to provide legal assistance to clients having difficulty with entitlements. We are also collaborating with the **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** to train staff members and volunteers to take and assess the blood pressure of our clients. Based on the outcome of the assessment, staff and volunteers will be trained to refer clients to a physician, clinic or the emergency room, if necessary. **The East Side Homeless Network** is comprised of three organizations: Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and the Yorkville Common Pantry. The Network works together to provide opportunities and support for homeless and formerly homeless people in the Upper East Side Region of Manhattan to reach their maximum potential for a satisfying life. Homeless men and women are eligible for the wide array of services all three agencies offer. Through increased communication about our services, missions, philosophies and goals, we find common ground from which we can work together more effectively. ESHN eliminates duplicate services and ensures that clients do not fall through the cracks. Homeless men and women receive comprehensive assistance to help them move off the streets and, with supportive services, into transitional housing and eventually permanent homes.

# YCP FINANCIAL SUMMARY — fiscal year July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 (net of event expenses)



**YCP's Total Ending Net Assets for fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 are \$5,538,033.**

The above information was abstracted from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. 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.



**YCP Employees:** Maria Bakht ■ Allan Brown ■ Carmelo Capo ■ Sheila Corrales ■ Michael Fields ■ Ronald Francis ■ Wendell Franks ■ Lee Gardner ■ Susan Hanchett ■ Juan Mendez ■ Wendy Oconitrillo ■ Gladys Ortiz ■ Anthony Perri ■ Daniel Reyes ■ Tommy Robinson ■ Eileen Skinner ■ Charles Staten ■ Brian Thompson ■ Marion Williams ■



**Anyone** who comes through our doors **will not leave empty-handed—**

receiving either a warm meal, emergency groceries, a haircut, or a referral to other food pantries closer to home.

**CREDITS**

**IN-HOUSE**

JEFF AMBERS  
CANDICE FRAWLEY  
SUSIE HANCHETT  
DANIEL REYES  
JOHN ZURCHER

**ART AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

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YCP PROGRAMS PHOTOS: SUSIE HANCHETT

**PRINTING**

REED HÄNN

**DESIGN**

BINZEN + BINZEN

