





Letter from CEO & Executive Director Gregory Silverman

Dear friends and supporters,

This past year at WSCAH has been nothing short of extraordinary.

While I could begin every message with “another record-breaking month,” the reality of life in New York City is clear: too many of our neighbors are still struggling to meet their basic needs. Growing pantry lines and shrinking city and state funding paint a stark picture—but the WSCAH community has risen to the challenge. Together, we supported over 110,000 customers, providing not only food but hope and dignity during times of great uncertainty.

This year also marked a transformative milestone as we celebrated the start of **WSCAH’s 45th anniversary and the opening of our very own warehouse**. This 13,000-square-foot facility, with 10,000 square feet dedicated to warehousing and cold storage, has revolutionized how we serve our community. It enables us to distribute more fresh, healthy food than ever before, meeting the growing demand while staying true to our commitment to high-quality, nutritious options for our customers.

Beyond meeting immediate needs, we’ve deepened our focus on transforming the emergency feeding sector through innovation and collaboration. With the Roundtable: Allies for Food Access, and partnerships with local organizations, community leaders, and policymakers, **we have expanded our impact and advocated for systemic changes to address food insecurity at its roots.**

As we step into the next chapter, we are fueled by the unwavering dedication of the WSCAH community—our customers, board members, staff, supporters, volunteers, and community partners. Together, let’s continue to transform challenges into opportunities, building a more just, healthy, flavorful, and equitable emergency feeding system in NYC and beyond.

In partnership,

Chef Gregory Silverman

Distributed

5.4m

lbs. of food

through

164k

distributions of
healthy groceries

of which

54%

was fresh produce

+33%

over FY 2023

Served over

110k

customers

Connected nearly

2k

families to benefits

including over

\$2m

in SNAP assistance

Engaged more than

2k

volunteers

who contributed over

26k

hours of time

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Co Vice-Chair

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Advisory Board

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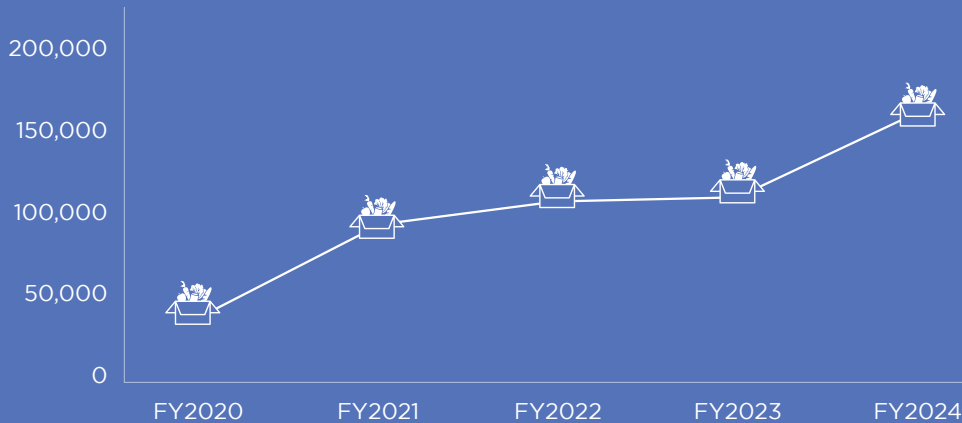
Nancy Solomon

Jessica Weber



Grocery Distributions

Growth in distributions of healthy groceries: FY2020 (July 19 – June 20) to FY2024 (July 23 – June 24)



ONE
grocery distribution
provides a
FOUR
day supply of
healthy food for
a family in need.

Distributions across
all sites increased
150%
over the last five years

Community Distributions: Bringing Food to People

Since 1979, WSCAH has been serving customers from West 86th Street in Manhattan. In 2017, we began partnering with community-based organizations (e.g. senior centers, schools, other nonprofits) across NYC to bring our healthy food distributions closer to where our customers live and work. Now we have dozens of partners in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn, which along with our home delivery program, provide hyper-local, convenient food access for tens of thousands of families annually.

86th Street remains our single largest distribution site. Average daily distributions increased more than 170% over the last five years, growing from 180 per day in FY2019 to 490 per day in FY2024. We reached nearly 15,000 customers through distributions at our partner sites and Community Hub program. In FY2024 we worked with two Community Hubs—Phipps Crotona Park West in the

Bronx and the Office of NYC Council Member Shaun Abreu in Northern Manhattan—and are continuing to add more Hubs in targeted neighborhoods where our customers live.





I love all the products I receive from this program, especially with how things are going right now, I am really appreciative of this service. The products are fresh and healthy, especially all the fruits and vegetables. Everyone who works here is so kind, and they treat everyone with respect. Thank God for this blessing.

— Maria • WSCAH/NMIC Customer

The partnership between our district office and West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) has been a game-changer for our community! Their team is always there for our constituents, offering excellent service and treating all their customers and volunteers with respect. They understand the importance of providing healthy, culturally relevant food, ensuring that everyone has access to the support they need to live well. I am incredibly grateful for their work.

— Shaun Abreu • NYC Council Member

I just left your amazing food pantry. I'm so grateful for all the fresh fruits and greens! I never had to avail myself of these services before, I've only ever donated, but this year, life has been challenging, and services like these make me feel so much more safe and less afraid of my situation. Seeing all your smiling faces today just makes everyone feel so human, not less than for their circumstances, and certainly not judged. New York is such a wonderful city, and New Yorkers are the kindest, most giving neighbors. Today didn't make me feel bad about myself, it made me feel grateful and hopeful. I wanted to say thank you.

— Holly • WSCAH Customer

Food FARMacy: Food as Medicine

In collaboration with NewYork-Presbyterian and the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, WSCAH has significantly deepened our efforts to address food insecurity among the city's most vulnerable populations: pregnant women, families with young children (ages 5 and under), and older adults (65+). Through the Food FARMacy program, clinicians refer food-insecure patients to WSCAH's Digital Choice Pantry, where they can select healthy, pre-packed food boxes tailored to their needs via a text-based ordering system. These groceries are then delivered directly to their homes. During FY2024, we proudly served over 2,000 households with twice-monthly grocery deliveries.



Our work with health researchers at NewYork-Presbyterian and Columbia continues to drive research at the intersection of health and food access. Studying the transformative impact of “prescribing” fresh, healthy food through initiatives like the Food FARMacy resulted in two additional articles published in leading journals during the fiscal year:

2023

Participant and stakeholder perceptions of the Food FARMacy Emergency Food Assistance Program for the Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic: A qualitative study. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*

2024

Longitudinal associations of food security with health and dietary factors among Food FARMacy participants during COVID-19 in New York City. *Nutrients*, 16(3), 434

These studies underscore the critical role of healthy food access in improving health outcomes and lay the groundwork for future investments in the field of food as medicine.

Connecting Customers to Benefits



Hunger rarely exists in isolation. Many families that are food-insecure are faced with the difficult decision to choose between paying for necessities like rent, medicine, or food on an ongoing basis. Benefits like health insurance and SNAP (food stamps) play a crucial role in improving our customers' overall well-being.

WSCAH is deeply committed to connecting thousands of families each year to essential benefits such as SNAP, cash assistance, health insurance, Fair Fares MetroCards, as well as providing referrals for legal support and affordable housing. In FY2024 our Benefits Access team worked with about 2,000 families to secure over \$2 million in SNAP assistance.

Working with WSCAH's Benefits Access team is an essential component of NewYork-Presbyterian's effort to increase long-term food security and ultimately, health. Through our Food FARMacy program, WSCAH's wonderful team members have helped make nutritious food more accessible and affordable, connecting more than 2,000 patient households to SNAP and other benefits. It's a great example of the power of a true collaboration between a healthcare system and social service agency.

– Carey Jernigan • Program Director,
Community Health,
NewYork-Presbyterian

Nido De Esperanza is incredibly grateful to partner with an organization like West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH). Not only do they help us provide pantry distributions for our Nido participants, but for the third consecutive year, WSCAH has also generously supported us by providing in-house benefits access once a month.

These invaluable services include face-to-face eligibility screenings, assistance with applying for entitlement benefits, and help with recertification to ensure continued benefit access. By offering these services on-site, we are able to give our participants access to essential support in a safe and familiar environment. This approach fosters dignity, as participants feel empowered to ask questions, seek guidance, and fully understand the benefits process.

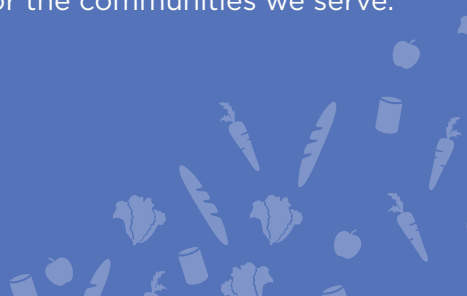
Additionally, working with WSCAH's experienced staff creates a cohesive support system for our families. Our social workers can follow up with someone who is well-versed in the nuances of the application process, ensuring that no one falls through the cracks. This collaborative effort helps us better address the diverse needs of our families.

– Astrid Cordero • Program Manager, Nido De Esperanza








































































180th Street Food Storage and Distribution Hub: Bringing WSCAH to New Heights

In January 2024, we opened our first dedicated food storage and distribution hub in Washington Heights, marking a major milestone for both our organization and the broader emergency feeding sector. This location positions us closer to the majority of our customers in Northern Manhattan and the Bronx. Our **13,000-square-foot facility** is more than just a warehouse—it serves as a collaborative space with over 3,000 square feet dedicated to offices, meeting rooms, and volunteer activities. The new hub has significantly increased our capacity, with dry storage expanded by 3.5 times (now 80,000 lbs.), freezer storage by 10 times (now 36,000 lbs.), and refrigeration storage by 30 times (now 54,000 lbs.), enabling us to **accommodate up to 170,000 lbs. of food** at any given time.

This expanded capacity allows us to distribute a greater variety of healthy, fresh produce, such as bell peppers, broccoli, strawberries, squash, arugula, and mangos. It also enhances the sustainability of our operations through bulk purchasing and increased in-kind food donations—resulting in savings of nearly \$100,000 on bulk milk purchases alone in FY2024. In the first half of 2024 we received **over 100,000 lbs. of rescued food**—an average of over 15,000 lbs. per month—that we would have been unable to accept previously due to storage limitations. As we continue to collaborate with food rescue organizations, this facility positions WSCAH to deepen our impact and expand access to healthy food for the communities we serve.



FY2024 Growth in Storage Capacity

LOCATION	86 th Street	180 th Street
REFRIGERATION CAPACITY	1,800 lbs 	54,000 lbs                               ↑ 30x
FREEZER CAPACITY	3,600 lbs  	36,000 lbs                     ↑ 10x
SHELF STABLE PRODUCTS CAPACITY	22,500 lbs    	79,400 lbs               ↑ 3.5x

WSCAH in the World

Hangry for Change: A Podcast for Food Justice

In FY2024 WSCAH launched **Hangry for Change**, a podcast that focuses on the emergency feeding sector in New York City and beyond. Hosted by CEO & Executive Director, Chef Greg Silverman, and produced by award-winning podcaster Charlie Bell, the series tells the origins and evolution of WSCAH and is a platform to discuss the key challenges facing the emergency food sector.

Hangry for Change is freely available on these platforms.



SPOTIFY



APPLE PODCASTS



SOUNDCLOUD

In the News

Opinion: Feeding Hungry People is Not Enough

Published August 14, 2023 on citylimits.org.

By Gregory Silverman

“ People experiencing food insecurity deserve more than the calorie-dense, ultra processed bare minimum. That means choice of food and access to options should not solely be a privilege of the wealthy. ”

“ We need to shift beyond a charity centric approach to a customer centric, efficient model of ending food insecurity. It is not about poundage and it’s certainly not about peanut butter and jelly sandwiches—this is about changing the actual ways of working to do the most good possible. ”



CBS New York – March 11, 2024

WSCAH CEO Greg Silverman was featured in an interview on CBS New York. The segment highlighted a report by Columbia University and the Robin Hood Poverty Tracker, revealing that the city’s poverty rate is double the national average, with 23% of New Yorkers unable to afford basic necessities. The interview shed light on WSCAH’s crucial work and the pressing food needs across the city. Despite all the great work we do on the front lines, Greg emphasized that “Charity can’t solve hunger”. He called for increased support from city, state, and federal authorities.

WSCAH Events

PLENTIFUL PLATES

WSCAH's fall event, Plentiful Plates, is a special evening generously hosted by Tavern on the Green brimming with engaging conversations, great food, live music, and an opportunity to come together with our community. It was our biggest yet—with 180 members of our WSCAH community in attendance: customers, volunteers, partners, board members, staff, elected officials, and supporters.

The event raised over \$160,000, enough to stock the shelves, fridge, and freezer of our Washington Heights warehouse with fresh produce, grains, and proteins.



WSCAH Events

WSCAH ROCKS THE BLOCK

In the spring over 1,000 people gathered on 86th Street between West End Avenue and Riverside Drive for WSCAH's third annual WSCAH ROCKS THE BLOCK event and our 45th Anniversary celebration. We had a beautiful, sunny afternoon packing healthy food for distribution to WSCAH customers (and enjoying delicious sandwiches from Tiki Chick and coffee from Buunni), advocating with Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) to stop the precipitous 56% cuts to the Community Food Connections budget, listening to powerful readings of poetry and essays by NYC student winners of our Writing Against Hunger competition, and dancing to music courtesy of Emy and the Epix and DJ Kreme.

Most importantly, we packed over 22,400 pounds of healthy food, enough for nearly 20,000 meals!

Thank you to all our donors, volunteers, customers, student writers, public officials, and community partners that came together this year to make ROCKS THE BLOCK a success. We can't do our work without you, and it's a wonderful feeling to gather in community to celebrate 45 years of fighting hunger in NYC and reaffirm our commitment to the work ahead.



THE ROUNDTABLE

ALLIES FOR FOOD ACCESS

Roundtable Members



Part of the Solution



WSCAH and The Roundtable: Partnering for a Hunger-Free New York

As the fiscal sponsor of The Roundtable: Allies for Food Access, WSCAH joins eight of the largest NYC-based emergency food providers (EFPs) working together to ensure no neighbor goes hungry. The Roundtable leverages its members' collective strengths to increase resources for communities, reduce costs through strategic and bulk purchasing, mentor smaller EFPs, and advocate for transformative policy changes at the city and state levels.

Strategic and Bulk Purchasing: Maximizing Resources for Greater Impact

Through the Roundtable's strategic purchasing initiative, member organizations share vendor pricing data to secure the best rates and ensure consistency across suppliers. This joint approach improves transparency and reduces costs, empowering EFPs citywide to make better-informed purchasing decisions. The Roundtable has also begun sharing data-driven purchasing recommendations with other EFPs across NYC to enhance their food distribution efforts.

The bulk purchasing program, launched in 2022, enables Roundtable members to place shared standing orders for essential items such as oats, rice, milk, and garbanzo beans. This innovative collaboration has achieved significant cost savings, with members **reducing expenses by 35% on \$1.1 million in bulk purchases to date.**

The [Roundtable's] capacity building team was a fresh set of eyes, combined with an informed perspective specific to our operation, that allowed us to identify and capitalize on efficiencies that have improved our ability to provide the services our community needs.

— Peter Endriss • Executive Director CHiPS
(Community Help in Park Slope)



Mentoring and Assisting Smaller EFPs: Technical Assistance (TA) Pilot

The Roundtable's Technical Assistance (TA) Pilot program provides smaller food pantries with the tools and expertise needed to strengthen their operations and serve their communities more effectively. By sharing best practices and hands-on mentorship, the program helps local pantries increase capacity and ensure access to nutritious food for more New Yorkers.

As the TA program evolves, the Roundtable plans to expand its reach to benefit more organizations and improve the emergency food system across NYC.

These efforts reflect the Roundtable's commitment to creating a fairer, more equitable emergency feeding system while ensuring resources are directed where they are needed most.

City and State Advocacy: Driving Policy

The Roundtable has become a powerful voice for policy change, advocating for funding and resources to flow directly to the community-based organizations serving on the front lines of hunger relief. In 2024, the Roundtable presented their first unified budget platform during the New York City and state budget processes. This advocacy included delivering testimony at key budget hearings, holding strategic meetings with policymakers, and pushing for increased support for critical programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program).

Roundtable Access Points

- Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen
- Met Council
- NY Common Pantry
- Part of the Solution
- Project Hospitality
- St. John's Bread & Life
- The Campaign Against Hunger
- West Side Campaign Against Hunger
- Anchor Site
- Community Distribution Point



Advocacy



General Welfare Testimony May 29, 2024 for the FY2025 NYC Budget Hearing

Charity has never and will never solve hunger, policy will. We need to expand SNAP, raise wages, and build affordable housing and healthcare for all. Our communities are in absolute crisis and the charity sector and irregular handouts of ultra processed food will not solve it, but we can help fight it. Front-line food providers cannot do it alone!

— Greg Silverman

Currently, I attend WSCAH's food pantry as a customer, volunteer, and board member. I have been visiting WSCAH for over 14 years and have witnessed how our work has become indispensable to many in our community. As a volunteer, I have been able to feel the sad reality of hunger and need that exists in our city. I am pleased to be able to help, together with WSCAH, so that the tens of thousands of families who annually visit, do not go to bed hungry. Unfortunately, this is a job that requires a lot of effort and financial support.

— Martina Santos

U.S. Representative Jim McGovern visited WSCAH in August 2023



We don't need to reinvent the wheel. These are the orgs that are doing it right. We need to support the existing programming. Let's replicate these models.

— Congressman McGovern

Volunteerism

WSCAH's volunteer program is the backbone of our mission, bringing together a dedicated community committed to ensuring all New Yorkers have access to fresh, healthy food with dignity. In FY2024, we significantly expanded our volunteer opportunities with the opening of our new Washington Heights warehouse, allowing more individuals and groups to sort, pack, and distribute food to our customers.

We simply couldn't do this work without the generosity and hard work of our incredible volunteers, whose time and effort make a direct and lasting impact on our communities every day.



By the Numbers

80-100
daily volunteers

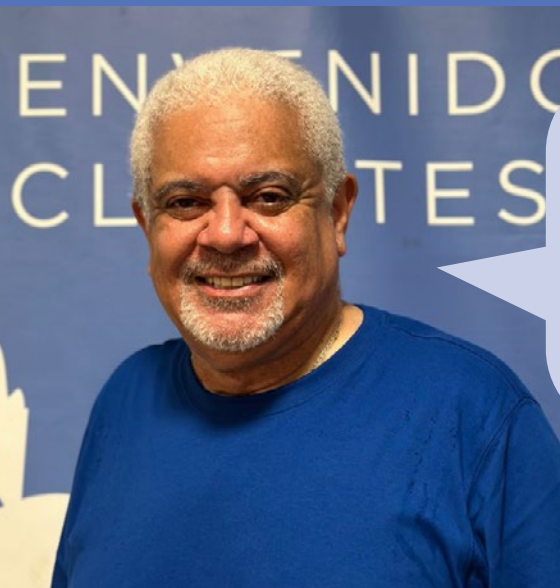
26,000+
hours of annual service

68
corporate
groups

65
community
organizations

Volunteer Highlight

José is one of our most dedicated team leads who volunteers several days a week at our 86th Street location. He reflects on his WSCAH journey:



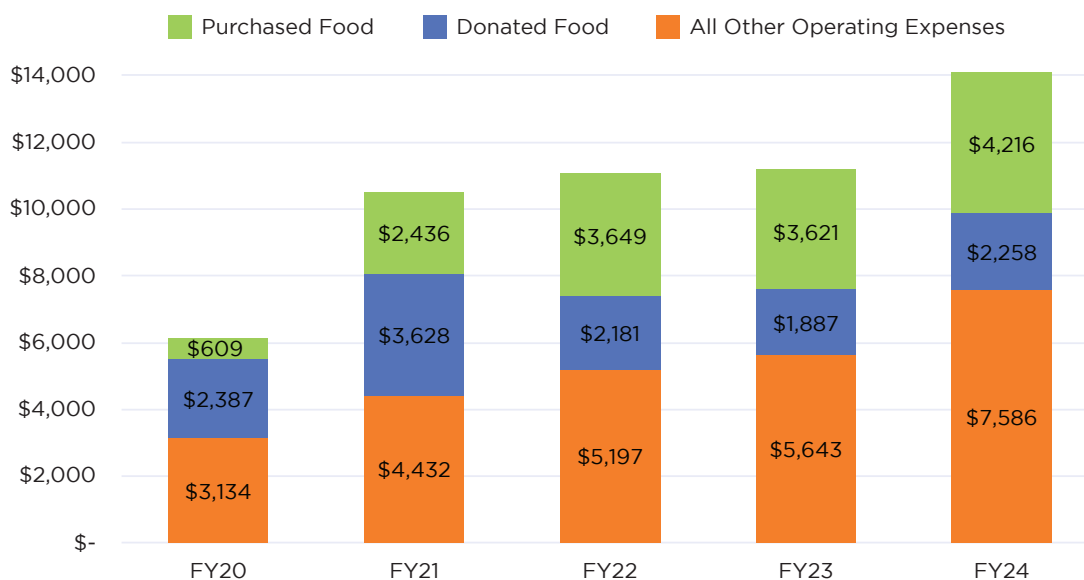
One day, I was walking through the neighborhood and saw the long lines of people waiting for food. The organization and efficiency with which WSCAH was distributing food were so impressive that I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I love being a volunteer team leader; it is such a good way to get involved with my community and meet like-minded people.

The Power of Community



WSCAH 5 Year Budget Growth

FY2020 - FY2024 (Thousands)



The information shown here was abstracted from WSCAH's audited financial statements for fiscal years 2020 - 2024. **Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. For purposes of the chart, FY20 = July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and all other listed fiscal years follow the same pattern.** Audited financial statements are on file at West Side Campaign Against Hunger, 263 west 86th Street, New York, NY 10024. A copy of the audited financial statement filed with the New York State Office of Charities Registration may be obtained online at www.wscah.org and on request from West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

DIGNITY.COMMUNITY.CHOICE.

West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) alleviates hunger by ensuring that all New Yorkers have access with dignity to a choice of healthy food and supportive services.

“ ”

I work part-time and I have a child with a disability. The extra food I get here helps me a lot. That's why I really love this pantry. There are a lot of veggies and good fruits, which is very helpful for me and my family.

— Phillipa • WSCAH Customer



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