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Chef Gregory Silverman Named Executive Director of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger

Greg Silverman a chef, entrepreneur, and longtime leader in the anti-hunger movement has been named Executive Director of West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH), the NYC emergency food pantry, culinary training, and social service counseling center. His appointment is effective January 3, 2017.

Chef Gregory Silverman, previously the Managing Director of Wellness in the Schools, succeeds Stewart Desmond who served as Executive Director at WSCAH for last four years. During Mr. Desmond's tenure, the organization has grown from a small neighborhood food pantry into one of the city's largest emergency food providers, a \$3.5 million nonprofit organization with 19 employees that distributes over 1.7 million pounds of food a year, enough for 1.1 million meals, to low-income families across New York City and secures over four million annually in public benefits for its clients.

Stewart Desmond joined WSCAH in 2008 as the Development Director and succeeded Doreen Wohl as Executive Director in 2012. During his tenure, Stewart substantially expanded the organizational resources, and built on the customer service model to add new programs and access to benefits. "Stewart did out an outstanding job in deepening our community roots, launching our signature Harvest Dinner (catered by our customer chef training program), and leading key initiatives including the planning for a mobile unit to be launched later this year. And he did it all with heart," says Cynthia Roney, Chair of WSCAH board of directors.

As we move into a new year, WSCAH is thrilled to welcome Chef Greg Silverman as our new Executive Director. "Greg brings tremendous experience in food justice. We are excited about his vision for WSCAH 's future as we work together to provide food with dignity and empower our customers to find solutions," says WSCAH board chair Cynthia Roney.

"It is an amazing opportunity to carry on the tradition of leadership at WSCAH, to build upon its years of success, and to help it grow and adapt to meet the ever growing needs of our city and its many communities," said Chef Greg. "In the coming years as

WSCAH expands to support more people in need across our city we hope we can call on many more New Yorkers to help us to feed our neighbors and help them back on their feet—as volunteers, donors and friends.”

Chef Gregory Silverman has been working in the food and hunger space for over 20 years. Prior to coming to West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Chef Greg was the Managing Director of Wellness in the Schools where he led their national growth through creation of innovative fundraising partnerships, expanding programmatic models, and retooling long term vision of the organization. Prior to moving to NYC, Chef Greg worked for Share Our Strength as their National Partnerships Director where he was charged with building the programmatic partnerships necessary to grow the No Kid Hungry Campaign and its national nutrition education efforts via the flagship Cooking Matters program.

Chef Greg has a long food and health focused journey over the last two decades. He worked in London as a nutrition education specialist for the city government and as a food consultant for public sector organizations; was a successful multiple restaurant owner and chef for a dozen years in Ithaca, NY; and spent time as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Mali.

Chef Greg has an MSc in Food and Nutrition Policy from the City University of London. He loves spending his waking hours cycling the streets of NYC, cooking food with family and friends, volunteering as a Board Member of Farm Africa, and cooking up change with communities across the globe.

About West Side Campaign Against Hunger

New Yorkers come to West Side Campaign Against Hunger when they can't put enough food on the table for their families. We offer them food in our supermarket-style pantry, social service counseling and job training. The neighbors in need who turn to West Side Campaign Against Hunger have diverse backgrounds: seniors, working people, students, unemployed, and immigrant, disabled. The organization works with all of them to solve the root problems that lead to hunger.

West Side Campaign Against Hunger has long been a leader in innovation in social services at emergency food pantries. In 1993, West Side Campaign Against Hunger invented the customer-choice model in which people select their own nutritious groceries from shelves rather than receiving pre-packaged supplies. The supermarket-style pantry allows people to choose food with dignity. The model also prevents waste by permitting people to select food that they will use rather than receive a bundle chosen by someone else. Many food pantries have followed West Side Campaign Against Hunger in adopting this model.

West Side Campaign Against Hunger is a customer-cooperative. Many jobs in the supermarket-style pantry are conducted by customer/volunteers: people who first came for food and stayed to volunteer in stocking shelves, assisting customers and many other pantry tasks. Volunteers also come from schools, churches, synagogues and

businesses. Many individuals from the community volunteer regularly. In all, volunteers contributed 29,000 hours last year.

The need continues at unprecedented levels in New York City's low-income communities, with nearly half (42%) of households lacking the income to meet basic needs such as housing, childcare and food. In fiscal year 2016, West Side Campaign Against Hunger distributed food for over one million meals. These million meals reached over 33,000 individual New Yorkers. WSCAH and many other groups in NYC continue to work hard to engage and empower our community.

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