



ANNUAL REPORT

FY2022 (JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022)

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



LETTER FROM CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHEF GREGORY SILVERMAN

Dear Friends and Supporters,

For 43 years, West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) has been at the forefront of innovation as one of the largest Emergency Food Providers (EFPs) in New York City. From the development of the supermarket-style customer choice pantry to text-based home food delivery, WSCAH continues to be a leader across the EFP space.

The economic fallout of the pandemic continues to put significant stress on vulnerable communities across the city, now compounded by ongoing supply chain issues, inflation, and a reduction of COVID-relief resources. In Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021 - June 2022) the demand for food and services reached historic highs, surpassing peak levels during the pandemic. In response to this need WSCAH increased annual food distribution from 1.6 million pounds in 2019 to 4.2 million pounds in 2022. We distributed food across 60 sites to more than 70,000 unique individuals in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn.

Our high quality, healthy food is what usually brings customers to WSCAH. But as we know, it's only part of the story. Our benefits enrollment efforts, which are focused on signing our customers up for food, shelter and health related benefits, are what often lifts families out of food insecurity for the future. And coupling these direct service efforts on food and benefits with our city and state wide collaborations and advocacy work we systematically address the underlying root causes of food insecurity for all New Yorkers.

I have been honored to lead this amazing WSCAH community over the last five years, working hand in hand with our community of staff, customers, volunteers, supporters, program partners, elected officials and everyone in the community who together are working to make sure all New Yorkers have the healthy food and supportive services they need to thrive.

With gratitude,
Chef Gregory Silverman

WSCAH BOARD & STAFF

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WSCAH team members Alyson Rosenthal and Juan Olaya delivering food.

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WSCAH team member, Pedro Castillo, delivering food.

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WSCAH's IMPACT

FY2022



Distributed **4.2 million** pounds of food, **55%** was fresh produce.



Served **75,000** individuals.



Helped customers access more than **5,000** cash and non-cash benefits including:

- Nearly **\$4 million** in SNAP benefits.



ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

In Fiscal Year 2022 WSCAH distributed food through 60 different sites across NYC. By bringing food to people through neighborhood-based food distributions, WSCAH reduces barriers to travel and makes healthy food more accessible, including fresh produce in high meal gap neighborhoods. Providing nutritious food is one of our core values. In FY22 55% of the food distributed was fresh fruits and vegetables.



“WSCAH has allowed us to provide a well balanced food package for our patients, which is what we always aspired to but had a hard time with because we couldn’t source fresh produce.”

- Bronx Health Collective, Community Partner

DIGITAL CHOICE OVERVIEW

WSCAH piloted a new digital choice model that offers online/text message ordering of four distinct pantry boxes (all fresh produce, combo shelf stable/fresh produce, dairy-free, vegetarian) for pickup at a community hub partner more conveniently located for the customer. The digital choice model supports enhanced customer food access and provides the dignity of choice while decreasing the stigma and time associated with waiting in long pantry lines. Customers choose their box from the convenience of their phone and quickly pick up their food at a community hub located in the neighborhood where they live. We launched the following three community hubs in FY22: Children’s Aid Taft Early Childhood Center (Harlem), Phipps Neighborhoods (Bronx), Grace & Peace Church (Bronx) and the program has been well received by customers across all three sites.

FY22 COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION SITES

CAMBA	Jewel Human Services
Cardinal McCloskey Early Childhood Centers (8 sites)	Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center
Children's Aid Bronx Community School- CS211	Mexican Coalition Bronx
Children's Aid Bronx Community School- CS61	Mexican Coalition Brooklyn
Children's Aid Bronx Community School- Fairmont Samara	Montefiore Bronx Health Center
Children's Aid Bronx Community School- IS219	Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC)
Children's Aid Drew Hamilton Early Childhood Center	NYCHA/MAP/DFTA St. Nicholas Houses
Children's Aid Early Childhood at CACPCS	NYCHA/MAP/DFTA Wagner Houses
Children's Aid Early Childhood at CS 211	NYP/CHALK/Washington Heights Family Health Center
Children's Aid Early Childhood at PS 5	Office of Councilmember Mark Levine
Children's Aid Early Childhood at PS 8	Office of State Senator Robert Jackson
Children's Aid Early Childhood at PS152	Phipps - Crotona Park West
Children's Aid IS 219 church group	Phipps Neighborhoods Soundview
Children's Aid Richmond Early Childhood Center	Phipps Neighborhoods West Farms
Children's Aid Taft Early Childhood Center	PSS Davidson Senior Center
Children's Aid-Bronx Early Childhood Center	Public Health Solutions
City Councilmember Shaun Abreu	Rena Day Care Center
CityMeals	School in the Square
Diego Beekman Houses	SoBro Gloria House
DOROT/Helen Rosenthal Home Delivery Pilot	SoBro Samuel Proctor
DWDC/Mama Tingo	SoBro Woodycrest Houses
El Nido de Esperanza	STRIVE
First Spanish UMC	Teller Ave Educational Campus (MS 539, MS 594, MS 328)
Grace and Peace Church	Tremont United Methodist Church
Henry Street Settlement	Woodycrest UMC
Holyrood Church/DWDC	WPA Huntington House
James Monroe Senior Center	

WHAT CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING ABOUT DIGITAL CHOICE

“Whoever put the box together knows how to cook. They put the box together in a way that allows you to make multiple dishes.”



“This program helps emotionally because it helps with many things. They send materials/papers for resources. That takes away the stress from on top of you.”



Customers picking up food in their neighborhood.

HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS



Members of NYP's CHALK (Choosing Healthy and Active Lifestyles for Kids) team with WSCAH staffer, Juan Olaya.

We continue to strengthen our partnerships with healthcare providers, such as NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) and Montefiore to distribute healthy food directly in customers' neighborhoods. NYP screens patients for social determinants of health, in particular food insecurity. Families with kids ages 0-5 or adults 65+ who screen positive for food insecurity are eligible to receive groceries twice a month for six months.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Urban Food Policy Institute at the City University of New York (CUNY)



WSCAH team member, Stephanie Moshier, distributing healthy food to customers.

On behalf of WSCAH, the Urban Food Policy Institute at CUNY evaluated the digital choice program. In-person focus groups at Children’s Aid and Phipps Neighborhoods were held in May and June of 2022 where participants provided feedback. Customers expressed being satisfied with the program overall and would recommend this service to friends and family.



One participant stated - “Yes, I think that this program helps and takes away the stress.”

The program reduces barriers to access food and related anxiety for customers, while providing a savings of both time and costs. Participants expressed that the box meets their food needs and provides healthy, culturally relevant products.

EVALUATION FINDINGS FROM PARTICIPANTS



98% reported using all the food received

90% were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the program overall

89% reported the pilot added value to the other approaches they use to get food

78% indicated they would make few to no changes to the food options

PUBLICATION

Pediatric Obesity Journal: Association of a primary care-based mobile food pantry with child body mass index: A propensity score matched cohort study

A study focused on the Food FARMacia program, a mobile food pantry run by West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) in partnership with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP), was published in the journal Pediatric Obesity. The article was written by NYP partners Jennifer A. Woo Baidal, Emma Hulse, and Dodi Meyer, and co-authored by Alyson Rosenthal, WSCAH's Chief Program Officer.



Food FARMacia distribution at the Charles B. Rangel Community Health Center in Harlem.

Through Food FARMacia, patients are screened for food insecurity and then receive a prescription to pick up high-quality, healthy food provided by WSCAH at one of NYP's community health centers. Research of 454 children with household food insecurity found that the Food FARMacia program helped to reduce food insecurity in families. The children in the program had smaller increases in BMIz (Body Mass Index) compared to those children not in the program. Even after adjusting for confounders, these findings were statistically significant.

This study is the first to show that directly providing fresh and healthy foods to pediatric patients in households with food insecurity helps to mitigate childhood obesity. It is a powerful testament to our collective work and the strength of collaboration.

We are excited to continue to push food-as-medicine interventions forward and demonstrate the impact they have on the health of our communities.

THE ROUNDTABLE: ALLIES FOR FOOD ACCESS



WSCAH is the founder and original member of The Roundtable: Allies for Food Access – a dedicated network of emergency food providers collaborating to bring more resources to communities, so none of our neighbors go hungry.

Founded in 2018 as a collective purchasing and cost-saving initiative, the group has evolved over the last five years. The Roundtable is deepening strategic collaboration around purchasing healthy foods including bulk orders, capacity building, and advocating for changing food and funding systems at the city and state levels.



Bulk purchasing saved member organizations nearly \$142,000 on orders of oats and shelf-stable milk when compared to standard distributor pricing, with average savings of 60%.

The Roundtable continues improving food quality at pantries across the city through contract renegotiations, public policy advocacy, and peer-to-peer organizational engagement. Roundtable advocacy includes successfully lobbying for emergency worker status to be extended to Emergency Food Providers (EFPs) in NYC and the historic inclusion of fresh produce as a purchasing option through Community Food Connections (CFC, formerly EFAP). Roundtable founder, Chef Greg Silverman, was named Co-chair of the Mayoral Food transition team and four Roundtable member organizations were represented in this 60 member transition team.



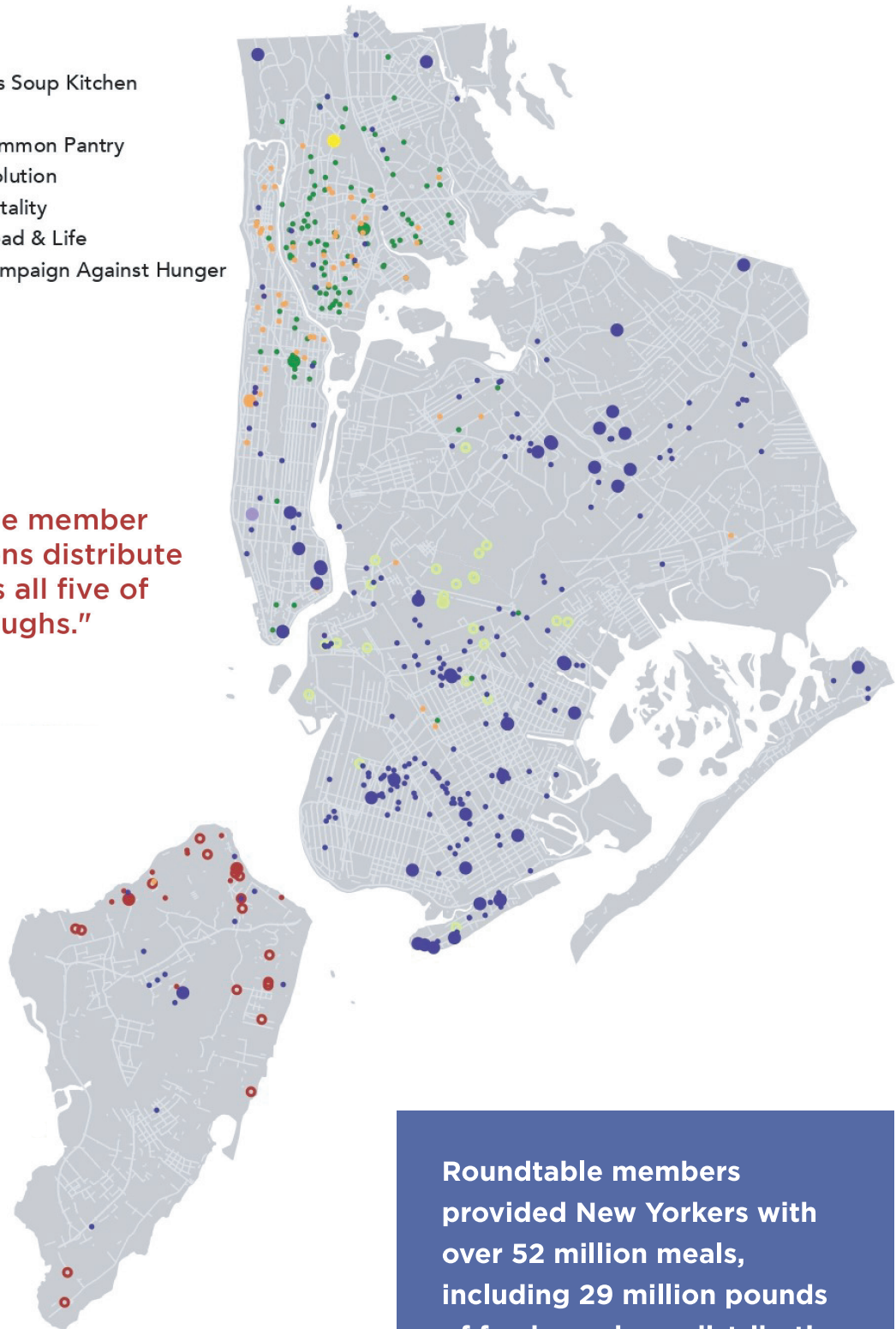
WSCAH at MET Council picking up oats from a bulk purchase made by The Roundtable.

ROUNDTABLE DISTRIBUTION SITES

- Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen
- Met Council
- New York Common Pantry
- Part of the Solution
- Project Hospitality
- St. John's Bread & Life
- West Side Campaign Against Hunger

- Anchor site
- Mobile site
- Partner site

"Roundtable member organizations distribute food across all five of NYC's boroughs."



Roundtable members provided New Yorkers with over 52 million meals, including 29 million pounds of fresh produce, distributing food at over 1,100 sites.

BEYOND FOOD...



WSCAH Team member, Diana Tamacas, signing customers up for benefits.

ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL BENEFITS | Our Benefits Access team screens all new WSCAH customers to determine eligibility for a range of benefits and services.

In FY22, WSCAH connected or referred our customers to more than **5,000** benefits, including SNAP, health insurance, rental assistance, unemployment relief, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, financial counseling and tax preparation, educational programs, immigration legal assistance, health insurance, SCRIE, and DRIE.

CUSTOMER IMPACT STORY

From Erica De Jesus, Community Resource Specialist:

Ms. Jenkins is a teen mom who called WSCAH in distress. She was kicked out of her family home with her infant baby. With a team member's support, Ms. Jenkins successfully applied for SNAP, and now receives \$516 in monthly benefits.

She no longer has to worry about having enough food to put on the table for her and her baby.



VOLUNTEERISM

FY22 Volunteer data

Number of new volunteers engaged:

Nearly 900

Total volunteer hours:

More than 16,000

STORY FROM MARTINA SANTOS,

WSCAH BOARD MEMBER, VOLUNTEER, AND CUSTOMER

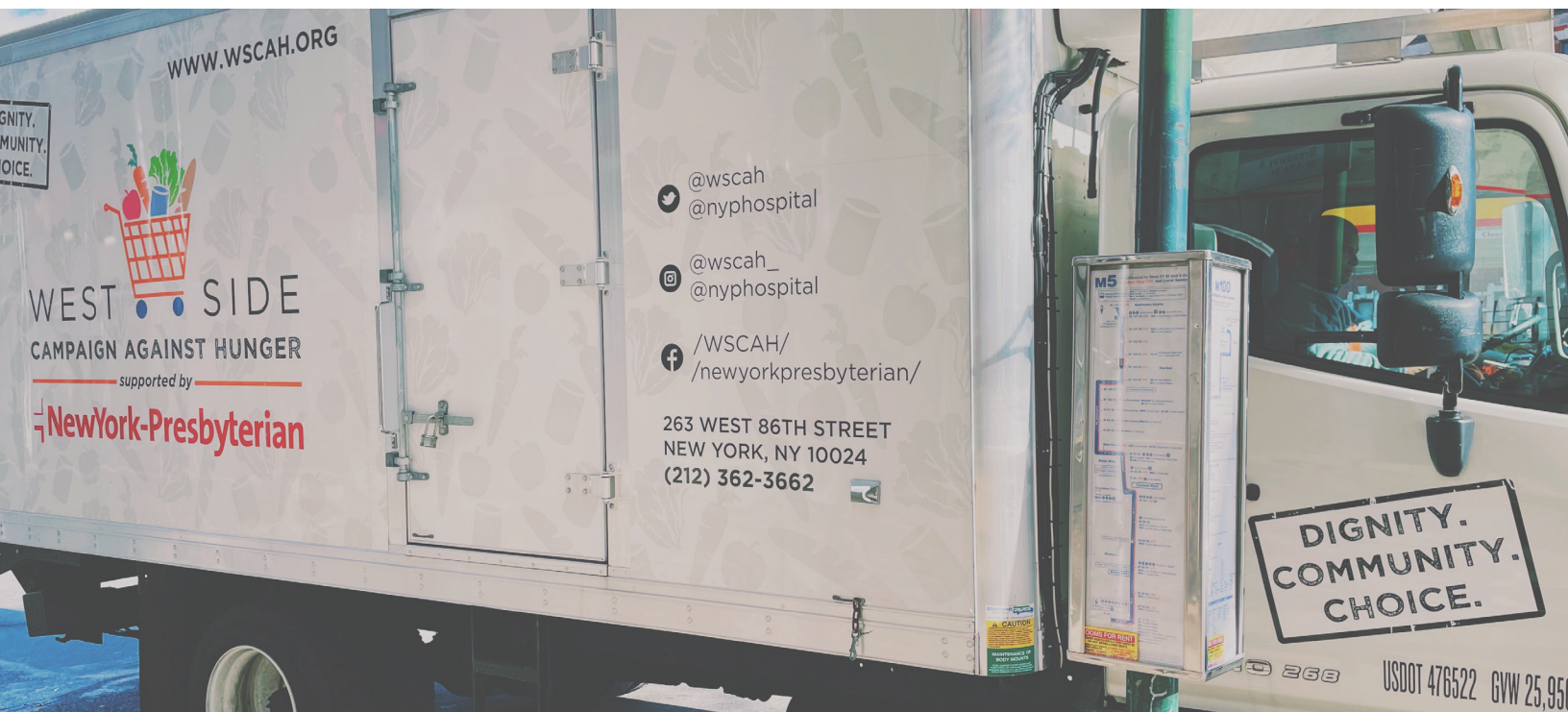
My name is Martina Santos and I live in the Bronx, New York. Currently, I participate at West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH) as a customer, volunteer and also as a WSCAH Board member. I have been visiting WSCAH for more than 13 years. Initially, I came as a customer because my income was very low and there wasn't enough for me to buy food to last the month. The first time I came to WSCAH, I immediately noticed the quality of the food distributed. That day I went home with a smile, as I carried with me fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, grains, and milk. WSCAH has turned into a home for me, as almost immediately after my first visit, I became a volunteer.

My greatest satisfaction is to be able to refer relatives, friends and even people I don't know to WSCAH. I know they will find a great variety of fresh and healthy food and also be treated with empathy and respect.



As a volunteer at WSCAH I have felt the sad reality of hunger and need that exists in our city. I feel happy to be able, along with WSCAH, to help the thousands of New Yorkers who visit the pantry each year not go to bed hungry. For over 13 years I have witnessed how the work of WSCAH has become indispensable for many in our community, but sadly it is a job that requires much effort and economic support.







WSCAH team at our future warehouse location at 180th Street in Washington Heights.



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DIGNITY.COMMUNITY.CHOICE.