

**Nourishing Our Community,
One Meal At a Time**



Cover Photo Credits:

Erik McGregor: Center, Top Center, Top Right

Sai Mokhtari: Right Top Center

Mario Nicholas Torres: Top Left Corner, Center Bottom



Church of the Holy Apostles has been an inviting and inclusive space since its doors opened in 1848.

Our building served as a stop along the Underground Railroad years before it provided a meeting place for the post-Stonewall gay rights movement. Congregation Beit Simchat Torah held services in our building for a long time, as has the New York Sufi community.

The landmark building has brought community members together as an election polling site, for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, as a neighborhood composting site, for musical performances and theatrical productions, a warming center on freezing nights, and as a regular meeting spot for several local twelve-step groups.

This same hospitable attitude inspired parishioners to open Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen in 1982. They served 35 meals on that first day. With the opening of a food pantry in 2019, our daily meal output is now upwards of 5,000, and we haven't missed a day of service in 41 years.

People come to, and through, this space for many different reasons. It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of our founders, working to enrich the lives of everyone who comes through our doors.



Dear Friends,

In 2023, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry (HASK) marked its 41st anniversary of service. It was a year in which the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic presented ongoing challenges for hungry New Yorkers and an opportunity for HASK to step up in new ways.

Inflation and food costs rose, and the temporary boost to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP), known as an emergency allocation which were put in place during the pandemic, ended nationwide in February. Many of our guests who use SNAP rely on the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry to fill the gap between their benefits allotment and the high cost of groceries.

With an eye towards meeting the need for food, we maintained distributions to the community we had been serving and we had asylum seekers in mind as well. Among our food distributions were deliveries to migrants arriving at Port Authority Bus Terminal and to newly arrived families at PS 11 here in Chelsea.

In total, HASK served over 2.6 million meals. It felt wonderful to welcome guests to family style Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the first time since the pandemic. Decorated beautifully as it always is for the holidays, the food was served in the church while volunteer musicians and singers performed. Our staff and volunteers had time to linger over conversations with guests old and new.

Over the course of the year, 6,682 volunteers gave generously of their time, talents, and good will. At the heart of our organization, volunteers helped distribute groceries at our food pantry, prepare breakfast and lunch for our meal programs, and provide social service assistance. We conducted over 31,000 social service interactions this past year – which included clothing and reading glasses distributions, mail service, ID card printing, as well as computer classes to help our guests navigate their way toward improved health, housing, and jobs.

The need for food assistance and social services will remain high in the coming years. With that in mind, 2023 was a year of strengthening our commitment to advocating for New Yorkers. It was also a year of planning for the future, as we laid the groundwork for the launch of our choice food pantry in 2024. This pantry model allows guests the freedom to select their own groceries, lending dignity to a process which can be humbling.

Additionally, we've been putting together plans for a capital campaign. These funds will be used for necessary renovations that will ensure that our space is more accessible and better equipped to serve as a primary food distribution hub in Manhattan well into the future.

More than one million New Yorkers are food insecure, and our programs are vital. We're grateful for the community of individuals, corporations, foundations, program partners, volunteers, and food donors you'll read about in this report who bring our soup kitchen and food pantry to life through their kindness, empathy, and commitment.

With blessings, and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna S. Pearson" with a small plus sign at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Rev. Dr. Anna S. Pearson, Executive Director

Meeting the Growing Need for Food in NYC



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor

An estimated 1.09 million New Yorkers are food insecure, meaning that they had difficulty during the year accessing enough food due to a lack of resources. New York City's food insecurity rate is 12% higher than the national rate.

Our city is expensive, and according to United Way's 2023 "True Cost of Living" report, 50% of working-age households don't earn enough to cover the minimum cost of living.

In response to the heightened demand, HASK provided **2,606,700** meals through all our feeding programs, marking a staggering **660%** increase compared to pre-pandemic levels.

- Our outdoor hot meal distribution provided **266,652 "Grab and Go" meals** every weekday from 10:30am-12:30pm.
- Through our Meal Outreach Program, we prepared **2,516** sandwiches each week for people who were unable to come to the Soup Kitchen. In 2023, the program delivered **130,848 breakfast sandwiches and bagged lunches** to individuals experiencing homelessness who sleep in or around Penn Station as well as asylum seekers who were sent to New York City after applying for asylum at the southern border.
- Our food pantry continues to be the largest meal program at HASK. In 2023, **3,167** unique households made a total of **36,780** visits to the pantry, which distributed over **2.2 million** pounds of groceries.



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor



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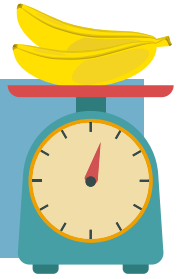
HASK continues to purchase local produce and dairy from New York State farmers through the Nourish New York program in addition to leveraging and donating food that would've otherwise entered the municipal waste stream.

In rallying the broader New York City community to support our hunger relief programs, HASK cooked with more than **485,000** pounds of recovered and donated food.

Our Impact: Meals in 2023

2,272,494

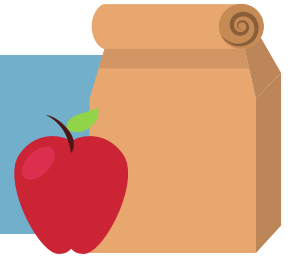
Pantry Pounds of Food



Soup Kitchen Meals **266,652**

130,848

Breakfast and Lunch Sandwiches Delivered



Sunday Suppers

1,661

2,606,700

Total Meals



18,544,471

MEALS SERVED

1982 - 2023



Enriching Our Guests' Lives

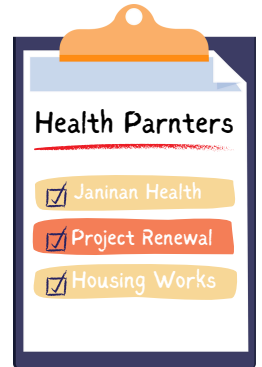


Project Renewal MedVan Mobile Clinic

In addition to serving over **5,000** nutritious and delicious meals each week, HASK provides social services to support guests in living more manageable and fulfilling lives.

Special thanks to the following organizations that help our guests lead healthier lives:

- **Janinan Health** - psychiatric and primary care medical services
- **Project Renewal** - MedVan Mobile Clinic physicals, insurance enrollment, and pharmacy
- **Housing Works** - HIV/AIDS services, prevention, and treatment



2023 saw our staff and volunteers facilitate over **31,000** social services interactions. We helped meet the needs of our guests with services that included:

- items of clothing
- hygiene products
- haircut vouchers
- PPE products
- ID cards
- reading glasses
- computer classes
- referrals to outside assistance, including benefits, legal and detox



Photo Credit: Sai Mokhtari

Spreading Joy at the Holidays

In December, we collaborated with NYC Council Speaker Erik Bottcher's office for the fourth annual Holiday Toy Giveaway. Held in partnership with Governor Kathy Hochul's office and the School for Food and Finance, HASK distributed over **1,300** new toys to local families.



Providing Warmth, Literally

For the fourth year, the Soup Kitchen served as a Warming Center. When the city declared a Code Blue due to freezing temperatures (below 32 degrees), we provided overnight space and breakfast sandwiches for an average of **16** people over **54** nights in the winter of 2022-2023.

Essential Services Provided

11,005 Items of Clothing



Hygiene Products **8,000**

3,297 Haircut Vouchers



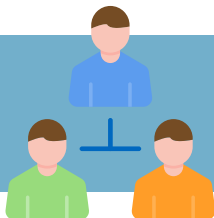
Personal Protection Products **2,713**

1,321 ID Cards



Reading Glasses **896**

146 Computer Class Visits



Referrals to Outside Assistance **125**

Our Volunteers

We've grown a lot since serving 35 meals that first day the Soup Kitchen opened in 1982. Along the way, individuals, corporations, foundations, volunteers, as well as chefs and restaurants from the Chelsea community and beyond have found a variety of ways to get involved. We're grateful for their loyalty.

In 2023, HASK worked with **1,544** individuals who volunteered, united by the belief that everyone deserves essentials like hot meals and warm coats, hope for the future, and opportunities to improve their lives.

"After being homeless, I remember how they supported me through it all," he shared. "The church showed me so much kindness and love. I wanted to give back."

- Ricky, volunteer

2,500+

Volunteer Hours in 2023

- David Abramson
- Paul Berizzi
- Edward Cohen
- Lucia DeVivo
- Lawrence Garment
- Deborah Goldstein
- Alice Hall
- Mohamed Mohamed
- Oswaldo Rodriguez
- Anthony Siano



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor



Photo credit: Mario Nicholas Torres

"What I appreciate most about volunteering at HASK is that when you step into the kitchen, you're at a family table that is open to anyone. There are no judgements, conversations are always interesting, and everybody is smiling."

- Maurizio, volunteer

Our Partners



Food Partners

The following partners assisted with the donation of bagged meals and drinks, and rescued food that included fresh produce, meat, dairy, bread, prepared foods, and specialty items for the holidays.

- Amazon
- Chobani
- City Harvest
- Food Bank for New York City
- Google
- Jamestown LP

Advocacy

HASK was honored to be named a recipient of the **2023 City Harvest Advocacy Award**. The recognition is made to organizations advocating for policies and systems that will help New Yorkers.

In September, **Michael Ottley**, HASK's COO, joined staff from fellow hunger relief organizations in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the Farm Bill, which supports government programs that directly impact our soup kitchen and guests, and individuals across the country. The Bill authorizes food programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (**TEFAP**).



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor

Food Relief Collaboration

Since 2020, HASK has been a member of the **Roundtable: Allies for Food Access**. As emergency food providers, we're working to evolve the emergency food system together by ordering food in bulk, supporting food rescue efforts, and sharing insights and best practices. Our hunger relief colleagues include **New York Common Pantry, West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Project Hospitality, St. John's Bread and Life, Part of the Solution, Inc, Met Council, and The Campaign Against Hunger**.

Our Partners

Special thanks to:



Allianz
Amazon
Apple Bank
Avenues the World School
Blackrock
Bombas
Brown Advisory
Carlyle
Chelsea Market
Citizens Committee for NYC
Cooper & Cooper
Copia
Down to Earth Farmers Market
Google
Grey Concepts
Haymarket Media
House of Good Deeds
Jamestown, LP

KPMG
Lodestar Foundation
Metro-Orthodontics
Ogilvy
Onsite IQ
Ralph Lauren
Schwab
Sharing Excess/Greenhouse Grocery
Tapestry
Tavola Restaurant
The Highline
Transwestern
Travel Zoo
Turner Construction
United Way
Verizon
Wells Fargo

Our Campaigns



Campaigns

To start the year, we held the **6th annual "Layers of Love"** fundraiser. The campaign generated over **\$8,931**, enabling us to supply coats, thermals, gloves, hats, and socks to **230** guests.

Our Summer Meal Drive raised **\$50,136** and we thank **Google** for a \$50,000 match. The Thursday before Thanksgiving, the Soup Kitchen hosted its 12th annual **Fast-A-Thon**, which raised over **\$111,234**.

Fast-A-Thon rallies supporters to create their own personal fundraising campaign and pledge to eat one meal that day in solidarity with many Soup Kitchen guests whose only meal is served at HASK.

Chelsea Market served as the Matching Gift Sponsor for **Giving Tuesday**. The Market matched all donations up to \$20,000. In total, we raised **\$36,073**.

Year-end donations were matched by the Shutz-Engel Foundation up to **\$60,000**.



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor



Thanks to everyone who supported these campaigns!

- The Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry Team

Hear From Our Community



"I was overwhelmed seeing the number of people who are in need of food assistance, right here in our neighborhood, and equally as impressed with the flawlessly coordinated effort of the HASK team. I'm thankful to have been a part of it and look forward to being able to join this group again."

- Kathleen, volunteer

"I don't have to worry about being hungry Monday through Friday. The food is good, it lasts me all day and I can get double portions."

It's a beautiful thing. The people that serve the food are friendly and they seem to care more than other places I've been to."

- Dollas, Soup Kitchen guest

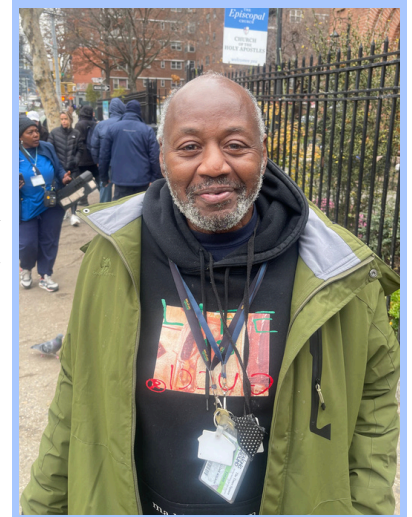


Photo Credit: Erik McGregor

"I had the pleasure of seeing all the effort and care you put into feeding people. I volunteered there one Thanksgiving when I first moved to NYC and I was amazed at the amount of work and food that went into just one day."

Everything was so organized, and everyone was helpful and friendly. I am so grateful for that experience and for all the amazing things you do for others." - **Anonymous, donor**

"The community that (Holy Apostles) has built is so incredibly impressive. It felt good to start off the day knowing we were doing something good for someone else." - **Kara, volunteer**

"This place helps us out a lot. It allows us to cut costs on grocery shopping which allows us to spend money on other things. My daughter loves coming here. The community, everyone loves her, everyone asks where she is when she's not here. This place has been something helpful for our family."

- Jasmine and Alana, Food Pantry guests





Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry Leadership



The Rev. Dr. Anna S. Pearson
Executive Director



Michael F. Ottley
Chief Operating Officer

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES OFFICERS

Wardens:

Donna Lamb
Mark Larrimore

Treasurer:

John Sandercock

Assistant Treasurer:

Richard Longinetti

Vestry Members:

C. Edward Case Sherwin Nicholson
James Connolly Cynthia Rock
Barbara DiPietro Matthew Reeg
Rick Milton Steve Turtell

ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT

Wendy Shepherd | Parish Administrator
Elizabeth Starling | Director of Development
Kayla Mills | Marketing & Communications Associate
Justin Zucker | Development Associate

SERVICE

Bruce Edwards | Security / Porter
Ousmane Kabore | Porter / Dishwasher
Leonard Santana | Security / Porter
Jose Terron | Porter / Security / Dishwasher
Noel Tlatelpa | Senior Porter / Event Security
Olimpo Tlatelpa | Porter / Event Security

CULINARY

Chris Molinari | Culinary Operations Manager
Jammarr Robinson | Prep Cook
Pablo Guzman | Prep Cook
Romulo Minchala | Prep Cook

COORDINATORS / SPECIALISTS

Jay Alfaro | Manager of Social Services & Partnerships
Shakira Cruz | Pantry Coordinator
Steve Fanto | Manager of Volunteer & Community Services
Daniel Velez | Program Assistant
Derrick Walker | Meal Outreach Specialist

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen Advisory Council

Kathy Bader Jennifer Smith
Tom Cunningham Cara Taback
Paul Devlin Frank Tujague
Jeffery Landes, Esq Darlene Waters
Morgan Jones



Photo Credit: Sai Mokhtari



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor



Photo Credit: Erik McGregor






HOLY APOSTLES
Soup Kitchen

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New York, NY 10001-5703
(212) 924-0167

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry's mission is to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, seek justice for the homeless, and provide a sense of hope and opportunity to those in need.

Learn more at www.holyapostlesnyc.org

-  [holyapostlessoupkitchen](https://www.facebook.com/holyapostlessoupkitchen)
-  [holyapostlessoupkitchen](https://www.instagram.com/holyapostlessoupkitchen)
-  [Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen](https://www.linkedin.com/company/holyapostlessoupkitchen)
-  [Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
-  [@HolyApostlesNYC](https://twitter.com/HolyApostlesNYC)



Erik Mc Gregor Photography