



West Side Campaign Against Hunger 2010 Annual Report





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Meeting the Challenge: Year Two of Recession

In Fiscal Year 2010, the West Side Campaign Against Hunger's 31st year of service, more people depended on us than ever before. We provided 35,147 low-income families with food for 847,152 healthy meals. Through the support of our many friends, in the second year of recession the West Side Campaign Against Hunger continued to maintain an Open Door, serving everyone in need who came to us for help.



At the same time our government funding is decreasing. For FY2011, we have already lost over \$90,000 in City funds that used to help support our counselors. Further cuts are likely.

Yet New Yorkers families are facing the worst recession since the Great Depression. Unemployment continues sky high.

This is no time for us to cut services. We need our team of five busy and enthusiastic bilingual social service counselors to connect people who come to us for emergency food with long-term help like enrollment in food stamps and health insurance; job training and English language classes. I wish we could hire more.

I hope you will take the time to read some of the personal stories inside this report that give you an idea of the range of ways we help.

Thank you for your support.

Doreen Wohl



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West Side Campaign Against Hunger Fact Sheet

Mission: *Through a supermarket-style food pantry, the West Side Campaign Against Hunger alleviates hunger and creates a culture that promotes self-reliance and works for change. The West Side Campaign Against Hunger changes our perception of hungry people by working in partnership with them, providing food with dignity and empowering customers to find solutions.*

- Founded in 1979 by the Church of St Paul & St. Andrew
- Supported by government, foundation, corporate and individual funders
- Partner of religious congregations and denominations across Upper Manhattan, many of whom are represented on the board of directors

Food

- Emergency food pantry providing food for 847,000 meals to 35,000 households in 2010
- Innovative customer-choice pantry since 1993, imitated nationally, allowing “customers” to select their groceries rather than receive prepackaged bundles
- Focus on Fresh: fresh fruit, vegetables and milk always available in the pantry

Social Service Counseling

- Connect customers to long-term help and pathways to self-sufficiency through case management, crisis intervention and advocacy
- In FY10 WSCAH connected 5,400 customers to services that help
- Careful computer tracking of household demographics and customer goals provides solid data on New York’s food insecure

Wellness

- WSCAH promotes a healthy lifestyle: free exercise class and daily nutrition demonstrations
- On-site HIV-testing, Harm Reduction and Domestic Violence Support

Advocacy

- WSCAH advocates for systemic change to improve the lives of its customers

Education and Training

- WSCAH’s 12-week Customer Chef Training Program teaches basic kitchen skills and healthy cooking
- WSCAH’s three-days-a-week English as a Second Language class advances customers’ (75% of whom are Hispanic) basic oral communications skills

Community Partnerships

- On-site registration for Food Stamps and free or low-cost health insurance; onsite credit counseling, legal advocacy and many other services

Volunteers

- WSCAH functions as a cooperative, much of the work done by customer volunteers
- WSCAH volunteers offered 18,593 hours in 2010 toward the operation of the pantry
- Local individuals, schools and religious congregations volunteer and run food drives



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GROWING NEED	FY10	Increase over FY08
Households served	35,147	30%
People served	94,128	26%
Parents	19,096	31%
Children	30,966	20%
Seniors	14,484	31%
Single adults	29,582	25%
FOOD DISTRIBUTED		FY10
Pounds of food supplied		1,114,795
Meals provided		847,152
Purchased food cost		\$443,000
Fresh fruits and vegetables cost		\$144,091
Fresh milk cost		\$53,041
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS		FY10
Volunteer hours		18,593
Donated food cash value		\$525,000
WSCAH RESPONDS		FY10
Households counseled		9,003
Health insurance enrollment and counseling		648
Financial counseling		145
Legal assistance		308
Free tax preparation		399
Food Stamp registration		301
HIV testing		387
Domestic violence counseling		177
Programs that Help		
Chef training graduates		42
English as Second Language students		96
Exercise participants		658



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How We Help

Helping People Reach Goals

Everyone who comes to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger knows the smiling face and irrepressible good humor of Martina Santos, a customer chef graduate and program volunteer.

Not everybody knows that a year ago Martina first came to WSCAH in need of food and without hope for her future. Through our services, Martina has transformed her life.

As soon as Martina met with her WSCAH social service counselor, she began making use of the wide variety of services that WSCAH offers to every client. Through Credit Where Credit is due, Martina worked to stabilize her credit—because her long-term goal is to open a business of her own.

Most important of all, in October 2009 Martina enrolled in WSCAH's Customer Chef class. "I saw the class and I asked what they were doing because I love to cook. Then I met Chef Mark and he told me I could enroll." In December she graduated at the top of her class. Since completing the program, she has been a regular and caring helper at our daily lunch program for volunteers. Martina has a smile, a kind word and often a special homemade treat for everybody.

In February, with the help of Chef/Instructor Mark D'Alessandro, Martina enrolled for further culinary training through a free certificate program at Kingsborough Community College. During the semester she attended class three days a week, and volunteered at WSCAH the other two. In June she graduated. Martina feels she has taken charge of her life. She's positive about her future. She is achieving goals that have long been important to her.

Martina is one of many people who first came to WSCAH's customer cooperative for help—and through volunteering have given back as much to the program as they received!



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How We Help

Helping Immigrants

Counselor Jennifer Ariaga reports:

“A new student in our customer chef training class recently approached me and said, ‘Thank you, you opened my eyes and because of that I am now able to take time for myself.’ I first met Julia as her social service counselor. At my suggestion, she applied for and gained food stamp benefits. Before that, she spent her days visiting different food pantries to sustain herself. The food stamps allowed her the time to improve her life through courses like chef training and English as a second language at WSCAH.

“After our conversation, I looked up Julia in our database. Reading her entry, I remembered that she was reluctant to apply for food stamps when she first came to us.

An immigrant to

New York, she feared that participating in the program might hurt her residency status at some time in the future. I was able to assure her that the benefit would not affect her immigration status. I felt good knowing that my advice had led her to take a step that changed her life.”



Counselor Jennifer Arriaga and client



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How We Help

Helping Seniors

The Community Service Society provides financial coaching to seniors at West Side Campaign Against Hunger. Two months ago, CSS counselor Margarite met John, a shelter resident overwhelmed by debt. Since then she has helped him change his life. With Margarite's help, John opened a checking account and reduced his debt by 20%. He still has \$3,700 in credit card debt but will reduce this by 25% in the next year. He is also leaving the shelter system for an apartment of his own.

The next step for John is applying for life insurance to provide for his daughter and saving one month's rent in his bank account as a cushion. His monthly visits with Margarite will help keep him on track.

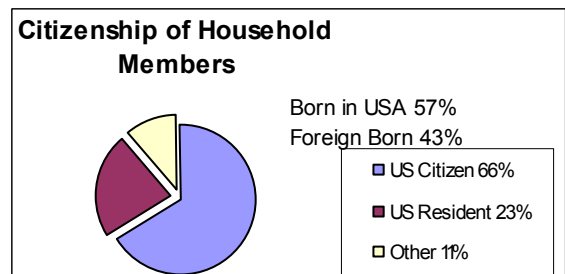
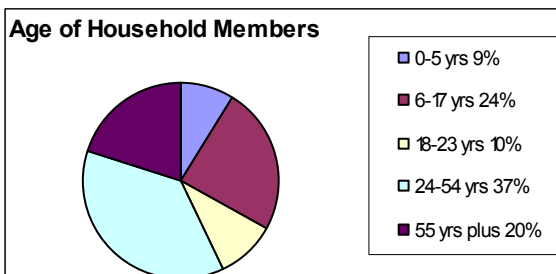
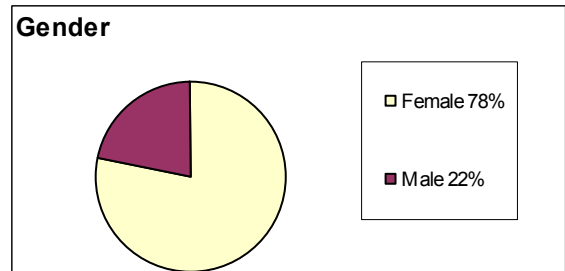
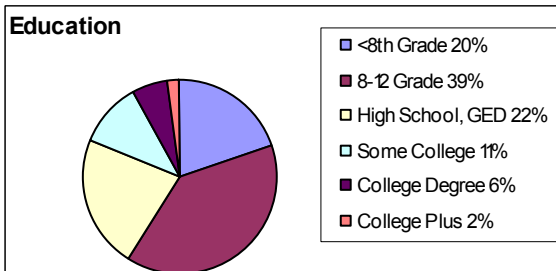
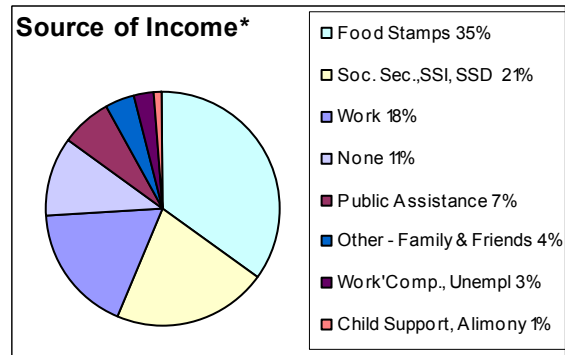
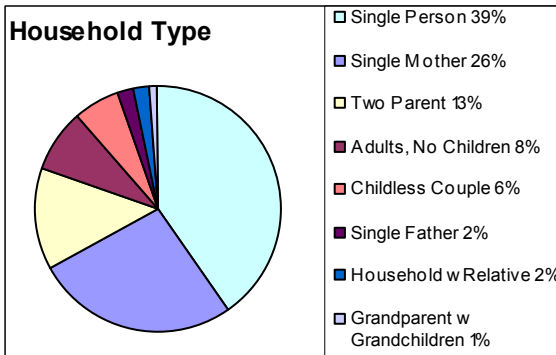
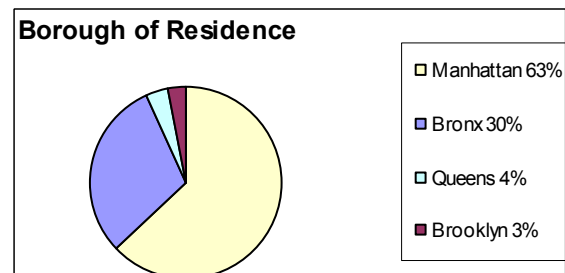
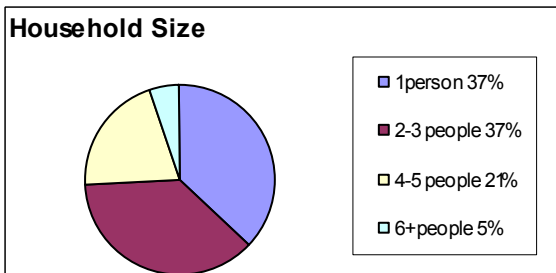
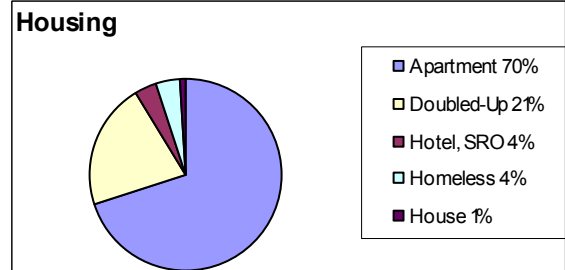
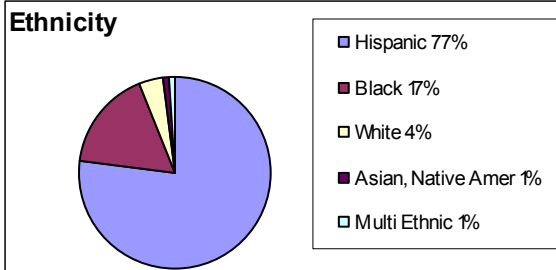
Helping People with HIV

Dave, a 46-year-old Latino man who lives in a Single Room Occupancy residence (SRO), has been HIV+ for ten years. He gets support from New York City HIV/AIDS Services (HASA). Dave told Jose, his WSCAH counselor, that he said he didn't feel safe in his SRO. Because of his complaints about illegal drug use on the premises, other residents were threatening him.

Jose contacted HASA to get Dave relocated. Jose also helped Dave find a new SRO by calling the building Dave wanted to live in and arranged approval of him as a tenant. Recently Dave's HASA caseworker called Jose to tell him that Dave will be moving soon into the new SRO where he can feel safe.



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Our Community Partners

On-Site

- AARP Tax-Aide:** free tax return preparation
- Children's Aid Society:** free and low-cost health insurance enrollment
- Credit Where Credit Is Due:** financial counseling
- Community Service Society:** financial coaching, benefits training
- Cornell Cooperative Extension:** nutrition demonstrations
- FEGS Center for Women and Families:** domestic violence outreach
- Home Energy Assistance Program:** heating subsidy enrollment
- Iris House:** HIV counseling, testing and harm reduction
- Latino Commission on AIDS:** HIV education and support
- NYC Human Resources Administration:** food stamp enrollment
- Social Security Administration:** Government Working Together events
- Urban Justice Center:** legal advocacy and eviction protection

Off-Site

- American Cancer Society:** cancer screening for the uninsured
- Career Gear:** clothing for work and job interviews for men
- Community Voice Mail:** free voice mail service
- Dress for Success:** clothing for work and job interviews for women
- Goddard Riverside:** homeless services
- Head Start Programs:** early childhood education and family literacy
- Legal Aid Society:** health law unit
- Medicare Rights Center:** training and advocacy on Medicare
- Northside Center for Child Development:** mental health services
- One-Stop Senior Services:** senior case management and advocacy



This year volunteers from AARP Tax-Aide (left) helped people at WSCAH prepare 400 tax returns and other tax credit forms free of charge. Through guidance of the AARP experts, participants received over \$225,000 in refunds and tax credits. Thank you to AARP for providing this great free program for our customers!



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 donors!***



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Above: Students from PS 1 in Manhattan collected food for the pantry and raised funds through Common Cents' Penny Harvest for the third year in a row.



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West Side Campaign Against Hunger
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*The West Side Campaign Against Hunger is a program of
the West Side Center for Community Life*