

June 18, 2020

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PARTNER WITH CITY HARVEST
FOR COMMUNITY FOOD OUTREACH**

*Cathedral Community Cares,
Social Services Arm of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Will Coordinate Aid*

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Columbia University are partnering to prepare and distribute healthy meals to New York City residents affected by food insecurity and scarcity. Between June 15th and September 7th, this initiative will provide a thousand bagged meals per day to help the city's vulnerable populations meet their basic daily needs.

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel III, Dean of the Cathedral, remarked: "There is the story about a lawyer questioning Jesus: 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus responded by saying that being a neighbor is not an abstract concept but the act of service to anyone in need. I am happy and proud that the Cathedral, Columbia University and City Harvest have joined hands in partnership to serve our neighbors."

Departments within Columbia and the Cathedral are preparing the meals and coordinating the logistics. Cathedral Community Cares, the Cathedral's social services arm, operates a soup kitchen each Sunday that feeds approximately 26,000 people per year. Columbia Dining is responsible for feeding the many thousands of people associated with the University. While the COVID-19 crisis resulted in surging demand at the Cathedral's soup kitchen, it closed down most functions at the University, including Dining. Now Columbia has re-opened its food preparation facilities to address the greater community's need.

The Cathedral and University will work with food rescue organization City Harvest to ensure the meals are distributed where they are most needed. Additionally, meals will be distributed by the Cathedral to smaller soup kitchens in Morningside Heights and Harlem.

Funding for this initiative has been made possible by two generous donors.

About the Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership. People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 26,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

About Columbia University

Columbia University is one of the world's leading research institutions and provides a distinctive and distinguished learning environment for undergraduates and graduate students in many scholarly and professional fields. The University recognizes the importance of its location in New York City and seeks to link its research and teaching to the vast resources of a great metropolis. It expects all areas of the University to advance knowledge and learning at the highest level and to convey the products of its efforts to the world.

About City Harvest

City Harvest is New York City's largest food rescue organization, helping to feed the nearly 1.2 million New Yorkers who are struggling to put meals on their tables. We will rescue more than 80 million pounds of food this year, and deliver it, free of charge, to hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, and other community partners across the five boroughs. Our programs empower individuals through nutrition education, increase our partners' capacity, and strengthen the local food system, helping New Yorkers who are experiencing food insecurity to access, afford, and consume nutritious food. To learn more about our work, visit cityharvest.org.