



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HOLY APOSTLES SOUP KITCHEN RAISED \$180K AT VIRTUAL FARM TO TRAY EVENT

Over 400 Individuals and Organizations Came Together to Support the Soup Kitchen's Community and Provide Donations to Meet Increased Need

(New York, NY) October 2, 2020 – On September 24, 2020, [Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen](#), the largest soup kitchen in New York State, hosted their 8th annual [Farm to Tray](#), a virtual celebration of food and community, presented by Whole Foods Market. The event, which is a culmination of the soup kitchen's year-round campaign against hunger and food waste, raised over \$180K.

Over 400 individuals and organizations provided donations in support of this year's program, with soup kitchen partners providing an additional \$300K in in-kind donations. All funds will be put to immediate use to purchase nutritious food items for Holy Apostles' two largest meal programs: the daily grab-and-go hot meal distribution and expanded pantry program.

This year's event - which took place virtually for the first time ever - featured:

- A special appearance from **Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul**
- Virtual programming from prominent culinary figures and corporate partners, including **mixology demos** by [Whole Foods Market](#) and [Ocean Hill Apple Brandy](#), and **culinary tips** from Chef Ginger Pierce ([Jams at 1 Hotel Central Park](#)), Pastry Chef Caroline Schiff ([Gage & Tollner](#)), Chef Yvan Lemoine ([Casa Nomad](#)), and Chef Robert Austin Cho ([Kimchi Smoke](#))
- Musical performances by Debbie Harry and other notable performers
- A **cooking demo** featuring [Chef Russell Jackson](#) of [Reverence](#) in collaboration with [Verlasso Salmon](#)
- A collection of heartwarming videos from guests and volunteers showcasing how the soup kitchen has expertly navigated food service amidst the pandemic

The *Farm to Tray* program will be available to stream via farmtotray.org through the end of the year.

Over the past eight years, *Farm to Tray* has raised vital funds that strengthen Holy Apostles' ability to improve the lives of New Yorkers through meal outreach and dynamic social service programs. This year, the event also celebrated the partners and volunteers who have contributed to the soup kitchen's ability to step up and meet the unprecedented increase in demand as a result of the global pandemic.

The funds raised through *Farm to Tray* come at a critical time as the emergency funding from the state is set to expire at the end of October. Food insecurity has been a persistent problem in America for years, but COVID-19 has exacerbated and amplified the food crisis unlike ever before. Since January 1st, Holy Apostles has served 695,968 meals, 85% of which were provided after Governor Cuomo announced a state of emergency in mid-March. **The weekly average number of pantry meals served in 2019 was 840 meals per week. The soup kitchen is currently averaging 22,000 meals per week, representing a 2,500% increase.**

To make a donation to Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen visit <https://donate.holyapostlessoupkitchen.org/>.

For media inquiries, please contact RVD Communications at ryd@rachelvandolsen.com or 914.260.4636.

About Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen:

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen is the largest soup kitchen in New York State, providing thousands of meals each weekday to residents who are struggling with hunger, poverty, and homelessness. Founded in 1982, the soup kitchen operates in the landmark sanctuary of the Church of the Holy Apostles and offers programs that nourish the body as well as the soul. In addition to meals, guests have access to social services support and workshops that help them navigate toward improved health, housing and jobs. Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen has never missed a meal service in its 38-year history, including in the aftermath of a devastating parish fire in 1990, during the power outage and city-wide havoc caused by Hurricane Sandy, and after the tragic September 11th attacks. For more information, visit www.holyapostlessoupkitchen.org.

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