



# Fall 2019 Newsletter

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope you had a fun, relaxing summer and a great start to your fall. Here at CHiPS, we've made some exciting upgrades to our kitchen as part of our newly expanded food pantry program, which began this month, thanks to a grant from The Helmsley Charitable Trust. You can read all about the new and improved program in this newsletter.

You'll also read about the many events and opportunities to support CHiPS coming up this fall, including our Night Out on Tuesday, October 29, when some of the top eateries in the Park Slope/Gowanus area will donate a portion of their dinner checks to CHiPS; the annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, hosted by the Prospect Park Track Club; and our Giving Tuesday Open House on December 3. If you're interested in volunteering at CHiPS this holiday season, read on to learn how.

We continue to be inspired by the caring and creativity of the many people who support CHiPS with their time, donations, or simply by spreading the word about our organization.

We hope their efforts, featured in these pages, will inspire you too. Every meal cooked, every plate of food served and countertop scrubbed, makes a genuine difference for members of our community struggling with hunger and food insecurity. Our neighbors in need have come to rely on the CHiPS kitchen day in and day out, whether for canned goods or a warm cup of coffee. Particularly during the holiday season, the generosity of compassionate individuals like you enables us to remain a source of community and hope for those who so often go without.

## *We thank you!*

**Denise Scaravella,**  
Executive Director

**Franklin Stone,**  
Board President



## Our Pantry is Growing

Thanks to a generous grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, in partnership with United Way, this fall, we launched an expanded food pantry program to better serve the growing needs of our community. With this grant, we are able to give out pantry bags on not only Fridays but also Tuesdays, when we offer “client choice,” permitting guests to select the items they would like in their bag, items that now include fresh produce and refrigerated and frozen goods

in addition dry and canned foods. More than \$34,000 in start-up funds covered much-needed maintenance of our food storage facilities and the purchase of a new large-capacity refrigerator and large-capacity freezer, as well as upgraded storage and conveyance equipment for shelf-stable items. This new equipment allowed us to free up space to store more food and create a separate storage area for paper goods and other supplies. And with the help of City Harvest, which has increased its weekly delivery amounts to CHiPS



as part of the grant, we can be sure that we will have enough food to meet the demands of our expanded pantry service. **What does all this mean for the people we serve?**

More consistent access to staple foods, more accommodations for people with dietary restrictions and health concerns, fewer empty cabinets and missed meals.

We are incredibly grateful to the Helmsley Charitable Trust for making this expansion possible, and we will be sure to keep you updated as our pantry program continues to grow!

## Summer Highlights

Kingsley Sosoo, owner of Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea in Park Slope, and CHiPS Executive Director Denise Scaravella at the Sweetwaters grand opening in September. Kingsley generously donated a portion of the proceeds from the grand opening to CHiPS.



Thank you to Erin Ednie at Harbor Fitness Park Slope and to all of the participants in Spin For a Cause, her “90s block party” spin class to benefit CHiPS. The July event helped spread the word about our organization and raised more than \$1,200 to support our work.



About 600 people braved summer rain showers to participate in our 5K race in Prospect Park this August. Special thanks to the Prospect Park Track Club, which helped make this our biggest 5K yet!



In June, the Brooklyn Nets prepared and donated 1,000 turkey and cheese heroes for our soup kitchen. Our guests loved them!

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## Night Out

Tuesday, October 29



The CHiPS Night Out gives local restaurants and their patrons the chance to make an evening out even more special by giving back to CHiPS. All you have to do is enjoy a meal or drinks at one of the participating restaurants on the evening of Tuesday, October 29, and a portion of your check will be donated to CHiPS.

**See a list of participating restaurants at [chipsonline.org](http://chipsonline.org).** Special thanks to CHiPS Board Member Peter Endriss, co-owner of Runner & Stone, a Night Out favorite, for organizing this event!

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## Turkey Trot

Thursday, November 28, 9 a.m.



The Prospect Park Track Club will offer 100 charity bibs to benefit CHiPS for the annual Turkey Trot in Prospect Park on Thanksgiving morning. This popular 5-mile race fills up quickly, so reserve your charity bib today at [pptc.org/turkey](http://pptc.org/turkey). Last year's race raised \$14,000 for CHiPS!

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## Upcoming Events

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### Thanksgiving Meal

Thursday, November 28,  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.



Thanksgiving Day marks the biggest meal of the year in our soup kitchen, and there are plenty of ways you can help make this a special day for our guests. **To volunteer on Thanksgiving Day or donate items for the meal, please call CHiPS at (718) 237-2962 beginning November 1.** Keep in mind that volunteer slots fill up quickly, and we can't accept groups larger than two. Donations of food should be made at CHiPS no more than two days before Thanksgiving and may be dropped off as late as Thanksgiving morning. Frozen turkeys may be dropped off anytime before Thanksgiving Day. Donations of paper goods, such as tablecloths, themed paper plates, and Thanksgiving decorations, are also needed and appreciated!

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### Giving Tuesday Open House

Tuesday, December 3, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.



On the international day of giving, we open our doors to our community for our annual Open House. Whether you're curious about the work we do here or simply haven't stopped by in a while, you'll have the chance to tour our facilities, speak with staff members, and meet others who care about the CHiPS mission. Can't come by for the Open House? We hope that you'll consider donating to CHiPS on Giving Tuesday at [chipsonline.org/donate](http://chipsonline.org/donate).



**To stay up to date on CHiPS news and events, follow us on social media [@chips4thave](https://twitter.com/chips4thave) or**

visit our website  
[chipsonline.com](http://chipsonline.com)

**Questions? Contact us:**  
200 4th Ave.,  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
(718) 237-2962  
[admin@chipsonline.org](mailto:admin@chipsonline.org)

## Donate

Thanks to our team of volunteers and local businesses that help us cover expenses like this newsletter, we're able to keep our administrative costs extremely low, which means donations go where they are needed most: \$50 provides 12 meals in our soup kitchen; \$350 provides one month's shelter for a young mom and her baby. **Donate through our website [chipsonline.org](http://chipsonline.org) or the attached mail-in form.**

## Volunteer

We are an almost exclusively volunteer-led organization, and we rely on you, our local community, to help us run our programs. Interested in getting involved? Come to one of our volunteer orientations, held on the second Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. and last Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. No need to register – just come on by!

## Our Staff

**Denise Scaravella**, Executive Director  
**Janice Lebby**, Director of Food Services  
**Sharon Lewis**, Director of Shelter Services  
**Laura Goldberg**, Director of Development  
**Pepe Dbayan**, Director of Finance  
**Maria Marzella**, House Mother  
**Max Toom**, Kitchen Assistant  
**Edward Mason**, Kitchen Assistant  
**Keston James**, Kitchen Assistant  
**Joe Messiana**, Kitchen Assistant  
**Alan Negron**, Maintenance

A warm thank you and best wishes to Hayward Crawford for his many years of service. Joe has some big shoes to fill!



Volunteer speakers at the Wednesday Life Skills Meeting in our Frances Residence this summer, from left to right: Caroline Hiteshaw, Frances Dirks, Ingrid Mellor, Joy Roberts, Mollie Montgomery, Tami Forman, Jean-Marie Cannon.

## Board Members

**Franklin Stone**, President  
**Charles Alexander**, Treasurer  
**Lauren Cramer**, Secretary  
Ashley Albert  
Martha Doble  
Peter Endriss  
Bert Halliday  
Adam Heimlich  
Kedin Kilgore  
Ali Manning  
Gordon Meyer  
Kate Navarro-McKay  
Akiva Reich  
James T. Ryan  
Ute Zimmerman  
Denise Scaravella, Ex-officio

Please tear and return in the provided envelope.

## CHiP in Now!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Donations by Check

(Made out to CHiPS or Community Help in Park Slope.  
Mail to: 200 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217.)

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct my donation to (select):

- Soup Kitchen  
 Frances Residence  
 Seat-Naming

Donations may be made by check, credit card, or online at [chipsonline.org](http://chipsonline.org).

### Donations by Credit Card

Card type (select):

- Visa    Mastercard    Amex

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date / CW Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_