

## Raising Our Voice, Their Voice – and Your Voice

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by *David McCoy*

In the fight to end hunger in New York City, the Food Bank has a number of amazing resources at our disposal – more than 100 staff with expertise ranging from public policy to elementary-school education, high-profile supporters like Mario Batali who help raise funds and awareness and supporters like you who donate, volunteer and spread the word. With 2.9 million New Yorkers struggling to afford food, we are dedicated to making the most of all of our resources and, right now, the Food Bank is focused on tapping into one of our greatest resources – our citywide network of food assistance programs.

With boots on the ground in every corner of the five boroughs, our network has insights and ideas that could only be gained from working on the frontlines of hunger relief. Collaborating with the network to raise our collective voice – combining the Food Bank's resources with the network's insights – may be one of the best ways to truly affect change, to truly end food poverty. This idea, this direction, is being led by our new President and CEO, Margarett Purvis, and was articulated perfectly at our 20th Annual Agency Conference, where she outlined the way forward. During her address to more than 500 network members and anti-hunger advocates, Margarett spoke about the importance of collaboration in service, how we must view our roles as providers differently, that we must be more strategic about our actions and that Food Bank will be there to help everyone be heard.

This vision will not only help sustain the work we do, but will advance it in new, innovate and responsive ways. When I raise my voice to combat hunger, Food Bank raises its voice, our network raises their multitude of voices, the potential for achieving change is incredible.

Stay tuned to our blog to learn about achievements of our collaborative approach but, in the meantime, won't you raise your voice too? Share this post on Facebook and tweet your support!

*As Agency Resources Coordinator for Food Bank of New York City, David McCoy works to increase the capacity of our network of community-based member programs.*

