



# 2023 ANNUAL **REPORT**

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# Letter from the Leadership

**Danielle L  
Cohen**

Board President of SNACC

Dear Friends,

As we start another year at SNACC, I am filled with immense gratitude. As I reflect 2023, it's astounding to witness the growth and impact we've achieved together. Last year, our mission to combat food insecurity and foster nutrition education in underserved communities has not only endured but thrived. This success is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Your dedication, creativity, and passion have been the driving force behind our ability to reach more families, educate more children, and make a tangible difference in our community.

Last year, we saw our Cook + Connect program flourish, extending its reach and deepening its impact. Our innovative approach of combining in-school and at-home culinary education has resonated profoundly within the communities we serve. The joy and enthusiasm of our young participants, as they learn and grow through our programs, has been nothing short of inspiring.

In 2024, we are excited to build upon this momentum. Our vision for the future is clear and ambitious. We aim to expand our program reach, particularly in areas most affected by food scarcity, and to introduce new, interactive educational modules. SNACC has been selected by the New York City Department of Education and the Mayor Eric Adams' Office as a preferred New York City food education partner. This year we will use this recognition to extend our programming, amplifying our dedication to our mission. This nod speaks volumes about the quality and impact of our initiatives.

We are also focusing on strengthening our community partnerships, as collaboration is key to making a broader impact.

None of this would be possible without your support. Whether you've contributed time, resources, or expertise, you are a vital part of the SNACC family. Together, we are not just feeding bodies; we are nourishing minds and empowering communities. As we step into the new year, let's continue to work hand in hand to make a lasting, positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey,  
Danielle L. Cohen

# Executive Summary

In 2023, SNACC (Sustainable Nutrition And Community Connection) made significant strides in addressing food insecurity and enhancing nutrition education in underserved New York neighborhoods. We expanded our Cook + Connect program by more than doubling the number of students and families whom we serve weekly. Our innovative approach, blending in-school and at-home sessions led by professional chefs, saw a 100% increase in students' nutritional knowledge and cooking skills. Through our partnerships with local schools and community organizations, we are thrilled to announce that we also developed our SNACC-in-School program. As we reflect on these accomplishments, SNACC remains committed to nurturing healthier, empowered communities through sustainable food education and food access.

## Vision

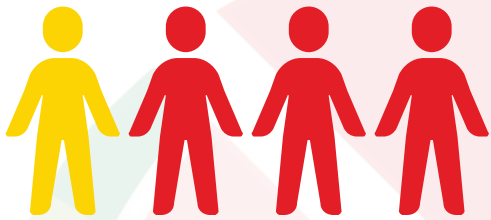
SNACC envisions a world where all youth have the resources and tools to thrive.

## Mission

Empowering youth and their families with the knowledge and tools to nourish their bodies, enrich their minds, and foster community connections through hands-on food education.

# Why our work is critical

SNACC addresses the critical challenges of food insecurity and educational disparities in New York neighborhoods and has established itself as a catalyst for lasting change and youth empowerment. Our mission has become ever more urgent as 1.2 million New Yorkers wrestle to feed their loved ones and 1 in 4 children face food insecurity. Add to this the alarming fact that nearly 40% of our city's public school children are either overweight or obese, with Black and Latino students disproportionately affected. In addition to the unmet need for access to food, NYC produces 14 million tons of waste annually, 18% of which is food waste. SNACC directly combats these statistics with our Cook + Connect Program, Parent Programming, and our SNACC-in-School programs.



**1 in 4 NYC children face food insecurity**



**40% of our city's public school children are either overweight or obese**



**90% of our SNACC families say SNACC has helped them reduce food waste in their households**



**95% of our SNACC families have increased their vegetable consumption since joining SNACC**



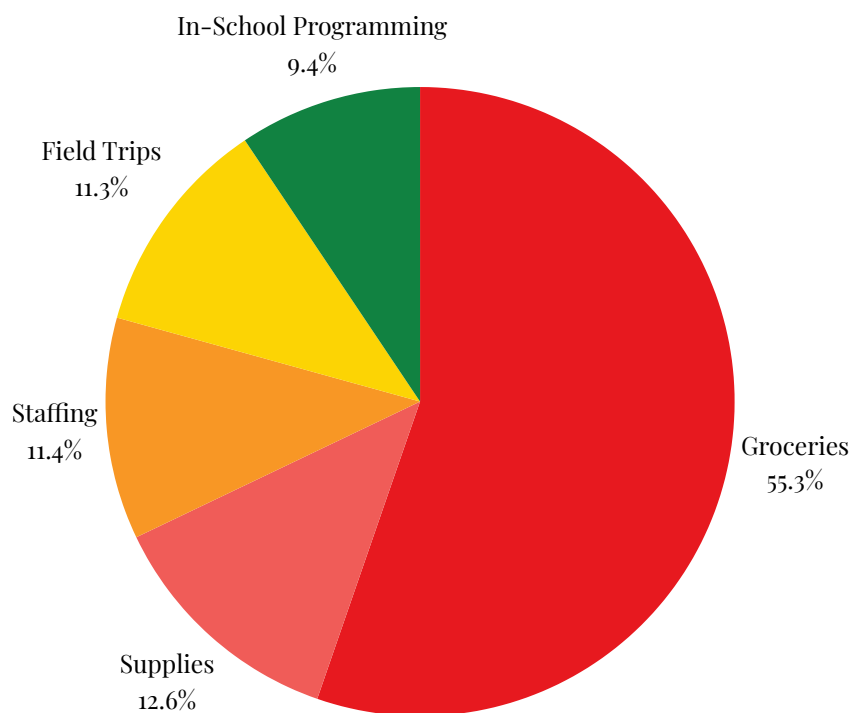
“The SNACC program has been a life changing experience for Joshua and mu family. It has taught my son the importance of being prepared, the importance of being proactive, the importance of working at a certain pace but most of all the importance of healthy eating and how to cook those meals.”



# Cook + Connect

In our Cook+Connect program, each student receives a comprehensive kitchen starter kit at the beginning of the school year, followed by weekly deliveries of fresh, high-quality groceries. Every Tuesday, students engage in a live cooking session via Zoom guided by a professional chef, where they prepare dinner for their families. From preparation to plating, these sessions culminate in family dinners which familial bonds and reduce stress around meal times. Additionally, field trips to kitchens, markets, and community spaces are organized to strengthen community connections. Our evidence-driven, innovative hybrid model not only promotes immediate family engagement but also instills long-lasting healthy habits and pride in our youth, ensuring they carry these lessons into their future.

## Financials for Cook + Connect



**170+**

individual donors

**\$123K**

Raised

**250+**

Individuals served



# Words from our Community



“SNACC has helped my family by providing us with access to healthy and nutritious meals through their weekly grocery drop-offs and cooking classes. I love that SNACC has empowered us to become more confident and self-sufficient in the kitchen, while also teaching us about nutrition and food security.”

- Claritza, SNACC Parent of Rayling

“SNACC has helped with acquiring life skills - not only with cooking & nutrition, but also with accountability of showing up and doing your best with something that does not come easy.”

-Meredith, SNACC Parent of Maggie



“I am grateful for SNACC because of all the new flavors I get to try and for the whole experience. I feel very proud of the food I make for my family. I’m very proud of the person I’ve become since being in SNACC.” - Tierra, SNACC Student



# NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS IN 2024

In a significant leap forward, this year marks the launch of our in-school programs, seamlessly integrating food education into the formal education system. SNACC has been selected by the New York City Department of Education and the Mayor's Office to extend our programming. In the coming year, we pledge to broaden our reach within schools, delivering food education during school hours for both students and their parents. Our focus is on making these sessions not just educational, but also fun, engaging, and hands-on, thereby enriching the learning experience for students throughout the city.

## SNACC in-school



We piloted our in-school programming last summer and are officially launching it in partnership with the DOE in January 2024. SNACC's in-school curriculum transcends traditional teaching methods, focusing on crafting enriching experiences that resonate with students. Central to our approach is experiential learning, which invites students to actively participate in the learning process through engaging activities like food preparation, tasting, and interactive food-related games.

## Parent Programs



SNACC is pleased to offer two engaging initiatives for parents of students in our partner schools, aimed at enhancing family involvement in healthy eating and culinary education.

Firstly, we're launching a series of interactive virtual cooking workshops specifically for parents.

Complementing the virtual workshops, we are also introducing educational grocery store tours. These tours are tailored to provide parents with essential skills for smart, budget-friendly grocery shopping and efficient meal planning. This initiative aims to empower parents with the knowledge and confidence to make informed food choices, reinforcing the lessons learned in our cooking workshops.

# THANK YOU!

As we reflect on the past year, the entire SNACC team is filled with hope and a deep sense of gratitude. We are immensely thankful for the unwavering support of our volunteers, donors, board members, partners, and everyone who believes in our mission. Your contributions have been vital in empowering the youth of NYC and nurturing a healthier future.

On behalf of every child and family touched by SNACC, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your belief in our work has enabled us to make a significant impact.

As we move forward, we are inspired to continue growing and serving our community with your support.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The SNACC Team



## Contact us



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www.SNACCprogram.org