

2023



EPISCOPAL
MINISTRIES
OF LONG ISLAND

BROOKLYN
QUEENS
NASSAU
SUFFOLK



LOCAL SOLUTIONS to local problems

Episcopal Ministries of Long Island (EMLI) is a diocesan-wide network of parish-based ministries working together to bring our faith beyond the walls of our churches and into the public square - meeting the needs of our neighbors with compassion and expertise.

The EMLI ministry partners featured here are pillars in their communities, leveraging deep community connections, fostering strategic partnerships, and mobilizing the unwavering commitment of volunteers to create **programs that not only touch lives, but change them.**

Each of these ministries partners is supported by EMLI with grant funding, formal and informal training, and with our robust network of community connections and local expertise.

EMLI takes pride in its role as a driving force

behind these remarkable initiatives, but our work is only possible because you invest in it. Thank you.

Your generosity is the lifeblood of these transformative ministries. With your support, parishes throughout our diocese can amplify their efforts, reach deeper into the heart of our communities, and unlock even more potential for meaningful change. Thank you.

Each day, we bear witness to the fact that **there is power in everyday actions, in community relationships, in grassroots partnerships.** The parishes across our diocese, as they identify and respond to community challenges, have the solutions the world needs as we seek to welcome the Kingdom of Heaven — right here and right now. Thank you for being a part of this mission with us.



MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS



Upholding Human Dignity

Ministries meeting the basic human rights to food, water, clothing, and housing for all our neighbors across the diocese



Caring for God's Creation

Ministries sustainably nurturing the natural world and educating the public on the urgency of the climate crisis, which threatens the most vulnerable among us



Building Beloved Community

Ministries that work to tear down systems of oppression and provide opportunities for people to grow as reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers in the name of Christ



Fostering Solidarity & Belonging

Ministries ensuring that all members of our community can live abundant, fruitful lives by creating space for connection, learning, and support

POP-UP PANTRY

AT ST. ANN & THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH AND PRO-CATHEDRAL

Walking past the corner of Clinton and Montague Streets in Brooklyn Heights on her commute to work, Allison Buckingham, co-owner of Perelandra Natural Foods, noticed a line beginning at the church entrance and wrapping around the corner. Three folding tables were lined up at the front step and the doors were propped open as folks walked in and out of the narthex carrying boxes of food.

Allison, who knows the Rev. Canon John Denaro, Rector at St. Ann's & the Holy Trinity Church and Pro-Cathedral, from his many lunch runs to Perelandra, stopped him the next time she saw him in her store.

"Do you operate a food pantry at the church?" Allison inquired. Canon John, pleasantly baffled, confirmed that the pantry had been in operation every Tuesday since the summer of 2020. Allison, who teaches a nutrition course at St. Joseph's University in Fort Greene and is a fierce advocate for the prevention of food waste, asked if Perelandra could donate a palette of fresh, organic produce to the pantry every week.

"It was a moment of grace and it's been a blessing ever since," reflects Canon John.

Allison explained the process of managing a grocery store and why she is personally so compelled to ensure that the produce she purchases for the store is consumed. "When you're ordering food, you want to make sure you have what customers want, so you order a little bit more than what you're expecting to sell so you don't lose a sale. With produce, this can lead to a great deal of food waste. **In fact, 40% of the food produced in this country is wasted.**"

With 1.2 million New Yorkers facing food insecurity, Allison feels that wasting so much food is truly shameful.

While Brooklyn Heights is quite a wealthy neighborhood, Canon John notes that St. Ann & the Holy Trinity sits at the "intersection of faith and culture" - where train lines connect and Borough Hall, the Social Security Office, and several courts are just a few blocks walk away. People who clean homes and care for neighborhood children frequent the busy intersection outside the church, and a rent-controlled senior housing building is around the corner.

"It's a place where people find themselves," reflects Canon John, "and if they know that a bag of groceries that could make their lives a little easier is available every week, they'll come back."

He continues, **"As members of the body of Christ, we're called to be Christ's hands and feet and even heart in this world. This is our living prayer."**

Last year, they shared food with over 12,000 neighbors and saved over 38,000 pounds of food from being wasted.

1. 2022 Food Metrics Annual Report, NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy
2. True Cost of Living Report 2022, United Way
3. 2022 Food Metrics Annual Report, NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy
4. Food Waste Monitor, ReFed via Feeding America

14.6%

of New York City residents were food insecure in 2022¹

50%

of working age New Yorkers are struggling to cover their basic needs: housing, food, health care, and transportation²

1 in 5

children in NYC are food insecure³

40%

of all food in the United States is wasted⁴



Photos: (Top) Lauren pushes produce cart from Perelandra to the church; a neighbor signs into the pantry; Pat sorts produce in the narthex (Bottom) Volunteers line up outside the church

MINISTRY PARTNERS IN ACTION

Ministries featured on this map are currently supported by Episcopal Ministries' funding and training programs.

NORTH BROOKLYN ANGELS

A volunteer-powered non-profit in Brooklyn that has been feeding meals to the community since 2017. The Angels bring food to where the need is, through their mobile soup kitchen (the Angelmobil, originally funded by a grant from EMLI), which now regularly serves over 1,500 hot, healthy meals a week at eight locations in North Brooklyn.

ST. ANN'S POP-UP PANTRY

Located in the heart of Brooklyn – at the “intersection of faith and culture,” the pantry addresses the immediate needs of food insecure neighbors while reducing food waste in collaboration with a near-by all natural grocery store.

BROOKLYN NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES

A ministry stemming from All Saints, Park Slope and Christ Church, Cobble Hill that raises funds and organizes volunteers to help resettle and assist newly arrived refugees in New York City. So far, they've organized 64 volunteers to support a Afghan refugee family.

MICAH COMMUNITY BREAKFAST*

In a neighborhood facing challenges of unemployment, homelessness, poverty, and gentrification, this community meal at St. Barnabas serves 75 neighbors each week.

TUTORING & ESL PROGRAM

A group of retired teachers with a combined 60 years of experience tutor over 30 local students every Saturday, tailoring their educational support to needs of each student.

ST. NICK FRIDGE

A community fridge and food ministry distributing hot meals every Tuesday and groceries every Wednesday in partnership with North Brooklyn Angels.

ST. GABRIEL'S ANGELS SUMMER CAMP*

St. Gabriel's in Brooklyn offers a safe, low-cost, and spiritually enriching camp for children during the summer, when many of their parents are at work. Campers receive academic support and enjoy activities including morning prayer, karate, dancing, horseback riding, and robotics.

THE GARDEN AT ST. FRANCIS

The Garden is committed to strengthening the local food system by offering fresh, local, organic produce to neighbors at prices below supermarket rates and by donating year-round to local food pantries. They offer horticultural therapy for individuals with disabilities and educate the community on the need to protect local plant species and pollinators.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL*

St. Jude's Vacation Bible School provides a week of joy, discovery, and spiritual growth for children from all backgrounds in the Wantagh community. Programming features a blend of enriching activities including crafts, games, snacks, music, and engaging Bible lessons.

SILVER BELLS

A heartwarming ministry bringing seniors together weekly for engaging activities including chair yoga, seasonal trivia games, themed lunches, live music, and even educational programs on essential financial topics relevant for seniors.

NOURISH BABYLON

A weekly community meal ministry that creates a fine dining, restaurant-style experience for its guests, serving healthy and nutritious meals in an atmosphere of dignity and love. A program truly shaped by those who are served by it, the program now includes a resource coordinator, a garden operated by a guest, and on-site permanent storage for guests' personal belongings.

FOOD PANTRY*

When a comprehensive needs assessment identified the need for a food pantry to serve the Three Village area, Caroline Church began to lay the foundation for this essential service. The ministry aims to serve 100 community members monthly.

NEIGHBORS BEING HUMAN

A ministry of St. Andrew's, Yaphank feeding 500 people a month from a pantry on the church grounds and in Blessing Boxes in local campgrounds, where many low-income neighbors live. As need has expanded, they now have a resource coordinator to help guests tap into additional community support.

THRIFT STORE*

When parishioners at Christ Church in Bellport started hearing from their food pantry guests that they needed a place to buy low-cost clothing and furniture, volunteers took it upon themselves to ensure those good were available at the church. The thrift store provides newly arrived immigrants with affordable options, while giving retired and isolated neighbors a place to connect and give back.

THE PANTRY AT ST. PETER'S

A tech-savvy pantry distributing organic produce from the St. Peter's Garden, in addition to themed, pre-packaged pantry staples. They partner with local businesses to offer specialty items including meat and fresh bread.

CAMP DE WOLFE

A ministry of the Diocese of Long Island hosting Family Camp and retreats where all people can explore nature, enjoy time with others, embrace challenges, and reflect on experiences - all in God's love and grace.

COMMON GROUND GARDEN

Out on the North Fork, farmworkers till the soil, growing nutritious, organic crops that they can't afford at local farm stands. Common Ground Garden is a collection of 26 garden beds tilled by members of Holy Trinity, the Church of the Redeemer, Congregation Tifereth Israel, individuals, community groups, scouts, and others that donate their abundant yields to local pantries - ensuring that all people can access organic, local produce.

RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY

A partner organization standing with rural and migrant communities throughout New York. They operate the Long Island Farmworker Cooperative, which allows individuals to jointly own and operate a business selling plants and produce, with the goal of owning their own land.

ST. PETER'S ORGANIC VICTORY GARDEN

A fully organic, pesticide-free garden offering plots to community groups and individuals and utilizing companion planting to increase the produce yield donated to the church's food pantry.

* indicates a ministry that received its first grant from EMLI in 2023

THE GARDEN

AT ST. FRANCIS IN NORTH BELLMORE

During a parish visitation in 2010, Bishop Provenzano sat down with the leadership of St. Mark the Evangelist (which merged with Christ the King to become St. Francis in 2013) for a difficult conversation that would set the course of the church's history.

"He threw the gauntlet down to us and said, 'People think your church is closed. You have to do something,'" recalls Ann McPartlin, who has served in parish leadership for over 15 years.

Motivated and determined after that meeting, Ann wrote the very first grant to what was then Episcopal Charities, requesting funding to start a garden on the two acres of property behind the church.

Today, if you pass by St. Francis on a Sunday morning during the harvest season, you'll see a portable cart showcasing baskets of organic, freshly harvested produce, hear the clucking of chickens, inhale the sweet aroma of a hive bursting with honey, and be greeted by roughly a dozen volunteers at the weekly farm stand.

Everyone has a part to play in the garden, which Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Grace Flint, calls a "sacred third space" for the community. **"This is a place that people come back to where they know they are cared about and loved."**

The Garden adapts to the interests and needs of the people who tend to it – it's been an outdoor yoga studio since the pandemic; it's a place where adults with disabilities can safely volunteer and give back to their communities; it's a place of healing for those struggling with addiction; it's a center of community education where people can learn about the importance of protecting native pollinator and plant populations.

Lily Yepez, a recent high school graduate, did her senior internship with the garden, where she designed and cultivated an herb garden. She planted herbs that are known to reduce anxiety, an issue she knows people of her generation often struggle with. **"As a society, we've become disconnected from each other and from the earth, but St. Francis has taken on the challenge of changing that. People here are full of love. They pour that into the garden and it shows."**

Last year, the garden produced 3,500 pounds of produce and tracked 7,000 volunteer hours.



Photos: (Left Top) Ann and Camille, two church leaders who helped launch the garden, showoff the radish harvest (Left Bottom) Lily and Julienne pick herbs from the herb garden Lily cultivated for her internship.

HOW WE SUPPORT PARISH MINISTRIES

“ Episcopal Ministries is not a disinterested donor. There's been technical support that we've relied on. I've come to think of EMLI as a consulting partner, because it really was more than a grant. It was an investment that EMLI took seriously. ”

The Rev. Canon John Denaro
Rector, St. Ann's & the Holy Trinity Church and Pro-Cathedral



RESOURCE

We finance new and existing ministries working to “bring our faith from pew to public square” that are affiliated with the Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk. Our streamlined grant application - a simple, planning document we will coach you through if you have no grant writing experience - is available on our website: episcopalministries.org/grants-apply. 100% of donor gifts go towards funding parish ministries via our grants program.

NURTURE

Episcopal Ministries conducts both virtual and in-person training workshops based on the needs communicated to us by our ministry partners on the ground. We equip ministry volunteers and leaders to succeed - providing them with the necessary skills and connections to effectively serve our communities.



AMPLIFY

We connect nascent ministries in our network with experienced community organizations, relevant experts, local media, and other similar initiatives to facilitate best practice sharing and scale impact. We provide training and resources on amplifying communications efforts - from traditional print news to modern social media trends.

If your parish is looking for support to launch a new ministry or strengthen an existing one, contact our Director of Programs, Sandra Senior, today at ssenior@dioceseli.org.


Your gift to Episcopal Ministries unlocks the potential of local ministries bringing meaningful, sustainable solutions to community challenges across Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk.

[EPISCOPALMINISTRIES.ORG/DONATE](https://episcopalministries.org/donate)




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 Episcopal Ministries of Long Island

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Front Cover: Stephanie Campbell, ministry leader of the Organic Victory Garden at St. Peter's by-the-Sea in Bayshore, harvests garlic

THANK YOU!

To the **989 volunteers** who contributed **19,912 hours** of their time to our parish ministries

To our **ministry leaders**, who generously shared their time and expertise with nascent ministries, creating an environment where all our ministries can thrive

To the **five new ministries** that joined the EMLI network this year, for allowing us to support transformational change in their communities

To the **many parishes** that contributed financially and helped us spread the word

To the generous **businesses and partner organizations** that strengthened the work of our ministries, and to the **local news outlets** that shared their stories

To the **thousands** who engage with our emails and follow us on social media for helping us spread the word and reach the folks who need us

To the **185 attendees** who joined us this past October for our annual "Celebration of Ministry" - we can't wait to see you again next year!

To our **generous donors**, who fuel our ministries and make this work possible

To **clergy** across our diocese who inform their parish leaders about how EMLI can support their ministries

To our **board members**, for their vision and support of our mission

Thank you for the work you do to bring our faith "from pew to public square." You are our mission lived out across the diocese.