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Letter from NYC Department of Sanitation Commissioner



"The donateNYC Partnership plays an essential role in the City's goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030."



Dear Friends,

In 2016, the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) launched **donateNYC**, which combined several of our initiatives supporting the donation and reuse of goods into a comprehensive new program that includes a website, mobile app, online exchange, directory, and other resources to make it easy for New York City residents, businesses, and nonprofits to "give goods, find goods, and do good."

Through donateNYC, individuals can search online among hundreds of for-profit and nonprofit venues where they can find or donate second-hand or surplus goods. Businesses and nonprofits can use the online exchange to post and look for materials in large quantities. The donateNYC website also features a calendar and news covering reuse and recycling events, swaps, donation drives, flea market locations, job and volunteer opportunities, and more.

An important component of donateNYC is the **donateNYC Partnership**—a professional network of dozens of nonprofits in New York City that, despite their various sizes and organizational missions, all have one thing in common: they all collect and redistribute second-hand and surplus goods in order to support their missions and serve the residents of New York City. In the process, donateNYC Partners help to keep tens of millions of pounds of usable goods, materials, and food out of the waste stream. The donateNYC Partnership plays an essential role in the City's goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030.

This donateNYC Annual Partnership Report documents and celebrates the impressive accomplishments of the donateNYC Partner organizations in 2016—highlighting their missions, their contributions to waste reduction and environmental protection, and their social impacts. DSNY is proud to continue its support of NYC's vibrant donations and reuse community.

Sincerely,

Kachsep Chiscea

Kathryn Garcia Commissioner NYC Department of Sanitation

donateNYC Partnership Highlights

donateNYC works to reduce the amount of usable items that prematurely get recycled or landfilled. Among other initiatives is the **donateNYC Partnership**, an association of NYC nonprofits which all accept donated goods to further their missions. Becoming a donateNYC Partner allows nonprofits to benefit from specific City-funded services.

■ Networking & Training — Throughout the year, Partners are invited to network, learn, and collaborate at quarterly meetings, donation and reuse workshops, and the annual Partnership Conference. Learning and networking opportunities are offered to employees at various levels, which both enhances the knowledge base in the City's donations and reuse sector, and helps make useful professional connections for participants.

■ Donation & Reuse Project Proposals — In 2016, with funding from NYC Sanitation, NYC Center for Materials Reuse requested proposals from donateNYC Partners to develop new, or expand existing, models for reusing materials that may otherwise be landfilled. Projects selected by an independent review committee were funded for up to one year to aid in the growth and capacity of nonprofits accepting second-hand and surplus goods. Inaugural awardees — Friends of Materials for the Arts, Lower East Side Ecology Center, PowerMyLearning, and Recycle-A-Bicycle — were announced at the 2016 donateNYC Partnership Conference. They will present project results at the 2017 conference, when new awardees will be announced.

■ Marketing & Promotion — donateNYC Partners are promoted throughout the year via the donateNYC website, mobile app, social media channels, printed materials, donateNYC-sponsored events, and various public forums — helping the Partners reach new markets, and helping New Yorkers discover new places to give goods, find goods, and do good. Donation and reuse limits waste, saves money, creates jobs, conserves energy, preserves resources, and when items are donated to local nonprofits—helps to provide services for New Yorkers.



donateNYC Partners by the Numbers

New York City is home to hundreds of nonprofit organizations that accept and distribute second-hand and surplus goods. Computers, bicycles, building materials, office furniture, clothing, and surplus food are a few of the types of donated items that these organizations collect and then either redistribute to people in need, or sell at retail outlets to help support their missions.

This economic model practiced by many nonprofits has several benefits: it reduces the amount of goods and materials that end up on the curb destined for landfills or incinerators; it provides usable goods to the public for free or low-cost; it conserves the energy and resources required to produce new items; and it creates green jobs.

The contribution of these reuse organizations in creating a more sustainable urban environment is especially important in the context of the City's goal to send zero waste to landfills by 2030. Often, though, nonprofits lack the means and time to track and analyze vital data about their contribution to waste diversion. This type of data can be used internally to better understand operations, as well as externally to promote an organization's economic, environmental, and social impact. To address the need for this data, the NYC Center for Materials Reuse, in collaboration with The City College of New York and with funding from the NYC Department of Sanitation, has developed a proprietary Reuse Impact Calculator, which uses gualitative and guantitative information provided by donateNYC Partners to analytically describe the impact of the nonprofit reuse sector in New York City.

These two pages illustrate the impact of our donateNYC Partners in 2016.



Environmental impacts:

Through accepting donations of goods, materials, and food in 2016, our Partners reduced greenhouse gas emissions by **142,802 metric tons** of CO_2 equivalents, and saved **1,205 billion BTUs** of energy.

This emissions reduction is equivalent to the annual...





Diverted from the waste stream:

Our Partners kept more than **85,500,000 pounds** of materials out of landfills in 2016.







Social services:

Our Partners provided a range of services to New Yorkers in 2016—including professional development, educational workshops, family services, housing & shelter, health care & supportive programs, and food programs.

In 2016 donateNYC Partner organizations:

- Reached more than 1.4 million people through their programs and services.
- Engaged the services of more than 32,000 volunteers who logged more than 166,000 volunteer hours the equivalent of over 19 years of volunteer time!
- Provided more than 2,000 jobs.





The **Arthritis Foundation** is focused on championing the fight against arthritis, through information, advocacy, science, and community. The Arthritis Foundation Thrift Shop has been a destination for shoppers and "thrift-inistas" throughout NYC for more than 55 years. All proceeds help fund research to find a cure for arthritis, advocate for better access to care, and connect families to the treatment and support they need.

More than 34,000 New Yorkers used Arthritis Foundation's digital resources in 2016, funded partly by thrift shop donations and purchases.



Big Reuse is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to helping NYC achieve Zero Waste and reduce climate change gas emissions. Big Reuse operates reuse centers open to the public seven days a week for building materials, furniture, and home goods in both Astoria, Queens and Gowanus, Brooklyn. Big Reuse also operates two community composting sites and provides outreach to help expand the NYC Organics Collection Program.



In 2016, Big Reuse diverted **more than 1.2 million pounds** of building and construction materials that might otherwise have been landfilled.





The Billion Oyster Project Shell Collection

Program supplies oyster shells to New York Harbor Foundation's Billion Oyster Project. Shells are collected from dozens of restaurants and events weekly throughout the city. After being properly separated, collected, transported and cured, these shells are reseeded in the NY Harbor School Hatchery to grow new live oysters.

To date, the BOP Shell Collection Program has collected **more than 400,000 pounds** of oyster shells for reuse from NYC restaurants.



BOTTOMLESS CLOSET women and work

Bottomless Closet promotes economic self-sufficiency for disadvantaged women in the city who are transitioning from unemployment and public assistance to work, by providing them with interviewing skills, business clothing, ongoing career development, financial management assistance, and support programs. A one-on-one approach helps eliminate many of the barriers that these women face in searching for and retaining employment.

In 2016, Bottomless Closet distributed **more than 24,000 donated garments** to women who were transitioning from unemployment.



The Bridal Garden ensures that high-quality bridal gowns are worn and enjoyed instead of being tossed away. By accepting unneeded gowns and selling them for up to 75 percent off their retail value, The Bridal Garden helps brides save money and plan more environmentally friendly weddings. The funds raised through The Bridal Garden boutique go to support the Brooklyn Charter School.



More than 1,900 shoppers visited The Bridal Garden in 2016, making purchases that helped fund The Brooklyn Charter School.





CancerCare provides free counseling, resources, and financial assistance to anyone affected by cancer. All CancerCare services are provided by professional oncology social workers and cancer experts. The CancerCare Thrift Shop on the Upper East Side of Manhattan offers a wide selection of designer clothing, jewelry, and items for the home, with all proceeds supporting the mission of CancerCare.

22,000 people received financial support from Cancer*Care* in 2016, in part because of proceeds generated by the Cancer*Care* Thrift Shop.



CAREER : GEAR

Career Gear builds strong families and communities by empowering low-income men and helping them to achieve self-sufficiency. Career Gear receives referrals from a diverse network of partner organizations and provides clients with services that help build their confidence—including professional attire, individual support, professional development workshops, and an innovative mentoring program.

Career Gear provided **more than 1,000 men** with professional attire and workforce development training in 2016.



City Harvest works to end hunger in communities throughout New York City. Through relationships with farms, grocers, restaurants, and manufacturers, City Harvest collects nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste, and delivers it free of charge to 500 soup kitchens, food pantries, and other community food programs across the five boroughs.



In 2016, **15,000 volunteers** helped City Harvest rescue and distribute **millions of pounds of food**.



NCJ≷

National Council of Jewish Women New York Section

The **Council Thrift Shop** provides a key source of revenue to support the vital programming offered by National Council of Jewish Women—New York Section (NCJW NY), a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. NCJW NY strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families, and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

In 2016, donated goods from manufacturers, retailers, and organizations provided **186 children** with everything they needed to start school.





Since 1889, **Educational Alliance** has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of the Lower East Side community. The Educational Alliance Art School is home of The Materials Center. Founded in partnership with Teaching Beyond the Square, The Materials Center contains a large collection of "found" materials and natural objects from everyday lives that are often discarded, but can be re-purposed into something new—encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and action.

Each year, Educational Alliance serves **more than 50,000 New Yorkers** across 17 host sites in the Lower East Side.



FABSCRAP provides convenient pickup of fabric scraps from commercial businesses as well as fashion and design brands in New York City. FABSCRAP works with an engaged network of students, artists, crafters, local designers, and industrial processors, using new technologies to reuse and recycle fabric to maximize its diversion from landfills.



In its first 6 months of operation in 2016, FABSCRAP collected **more than 4,000 pounds** of pre-consumer fabric waste.





GOOD+ Foundation partners with a national network of leading programs to break the cycle of family poverty through the power of donated child products and lifechanging family services. GOOD+ Foundation donates products and services to programs that have demonstrated a capacity to address family poverty, in three focus areas: supporting new mothers, investing in early childhood, and engaging fathers.

More than 2.5 million items were collected and donated through GOOD+ Foundation's national network of programs in 2016.





Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey empowers individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment to gain independence through the power of work. Goodwill NYNJ operates 42 thrift stores with donation centers in the region, with 14 in New York City. Goodwill stores offer training and work to persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment and generate revenue to support Goodwill programs.

In 2016, Goodwill NYNJ helped rescue, reuse, and recycle **13 million pounds of items** in NYC that might otherwise have been discarded.



Habitat for Humanity New York City transforms lives and communities by building and preserving quality, affordable homes with families in need, and by uniting New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing. The Habitat NYC ReStore in Woodside, Queens, accepts donations of gently used furniture, building materials, appliances, cabinetry, sinks, countertops, and household décor. The ReStore then sells those items to the public at a reduced cost, typically 50–80% off the original retail value.



The ReStore supports the mission of Habitat NYC, which has served more than **550 hard-working families** since 1984.





Hope for Us works to enhance the quality of life for youth living in low-income communities, with a focus on assisting children who are living with sickle cell anemia. Hope for Us works to improve children's living conditions, by providing them with recreational activities such as art and music classes, and by sponsoring children to attend summer camp. To support these and other endeavors, Hope for Us accepts donations of clothing, school supplies, backpacks, and more.

In 2016 the Hope for Us Backpack Giveaway provided **550 backpacks** filled with school supplies to children living in Hunts Point in the Bronx.





"The HopeLine" or **"La Linea de la Esperanza"** provides much-needed social services to residents of the South Bronx. The HopeLine takes a holistic approach to serving the community by meeting the immediate needs of clients through family assistance programs such as a food pantry, diaper distribution center, and SNAP benefit support. Other HopeLine programs include English as a Second Language classes, computer technology training, and citizenship preparation.

The HopeLine food pantry serves **850 families** each month and gives out **nearly 25,000 pounds of food**.



Hour Children helps incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families, and build healthy, independent, and secure lives. Hour Children's three thrift shops provide high-quality designer clothing, vintage and antique furniture, housewares, art, jewelry, and children's items at reasonable prices. The shops generate revenue for Hour Children's programs, and provide employment and training for program participants.



In 2016, Hour Children's Thrift Shops helped support efforts to provide housing for **199 women and children**.



Housing Works is a healing community of people living with and affected by HIV/ AIDS. Housing Works' mission is to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS, through advocacy, lifesaving services, and entrepreneurial businesses. The Housing Works Thrift Shops, Bookstore Café, and Buy the Bag Shop generate funds that directly provide Housing Works clients with housing, healthcare, job training, legal services, and more.

Housing Works provided **5,500 New Yorkers** with health care, dental care, and substance abuse counseling in 2016.





Lower East Side Ecology Center provides free community based programs for recycling and reuse, stewardship of public green space, and environmental education aimed at increasing community awareness. These programs divert electronic and organic waste from landfills and offer opportunities for New Yorkers to learn about environmental issues facing the City, while simultaneously working to solve those problems and create a more sustainable community.

More than **1 million pounds of electronics** were diverted from landfills in 2016 due to the Center's reuse and recycling efforts.



Materials for the Arts (MFTA) collects surplus materials from businesses and individuals, and redistributes them for free to New York City public schools, agencies, and nonprofits with arts programming. MFTA helps divert more than a million pounds of materials from the waste stream each year and offers events, workshops, and classes in creative reuse. The MFTA warehouse is operated by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, with support from the City's Departments of Sanitation and Education.



In 2016, MFTA ensured that **more than 1.5 million pounds of materials** were put to good use instead of being thrown away.





The Nest Music Conservatory motivates youth to explore their talents and create new ones, while expanding their minds beyond social expectations. Cultivating the performing arts within the community and providing a sanctuary for its preservation, The Conservatory provides music education to an area where public school funding for the arts is lacking. The Conservatory's mission is fulfilled in part through accepting and distributing musical instruments and supplies.

Nest Music Conservatory provides childcare services to more than **100 families**, and employs **more than 30 summer youth staff**.





New York Cares provides volunteer support to more than 1,300 nonprofit agencies, public schools, and other organizations throughout New York City, by recruiting and deploying volunteers to address the organizations' needs. New York Cares runs the City's largest coat drive each year, collecting gently used winter coats from New Yorkers and distributing them at homeless shelters, community organizations, and agencies serving seniors.

New York Cares collected and distributed **more than 109,000 coats** in 2016, breaking the record set the previous year.

Y PowerMyLearning®

PowerMyLearning is committed to ensuring that all children are able to "power their learning" through technology. PowerMyLearning works with the people who matter most to children's success—parents and teachers—to help students in low-income communities harness the power of digital learning. Since 1999, PowerMyLearning has partnered with more than 100 schools to serve more than 100,000 students, families, and teachers in New York City.



PowerMyLearning took in more than 34,000 pounds of donations in 2016, and served 5,309 students, teachers, and parents.





Project Cicero is an annual nonprofit book drive designed to create and supplement classroom libraries in under-resourced New York City public schools. Project Cicero receives book donations from publishers and from 100 independent, public, and parochial schools each year. More than 1,200 New York City teachers select books at the book distribution each year. Hundreds of student, parent, and teacher volunteers assist in all aspects of collecting and distributing the books.

Project Cicero collected **more than 150,000 books** in 2016 for under-resourced public schools.





Purses for Nurses strives to make a lasting improvement on global healthcare by funding volunteer trips that send nurses to the places where they are needed most. Purses for Nurses was founded with the goal of turning "throw-away" items into something powerful, and with the belief that big change starts small. By reselling donated purses, Purses for Nurses is able to fully fund trips of volunteer nurses to impoverished countries around the world.

Purses for Nurses sold **900 purses** in 2016, helping send nurses to places where they are most needed.



Rebuilding Together NYC provides home repairs, accessibility modifications, and workforce training to low-income individuals and nonprofit facilities. The Rebuilding Together NYC Salvage Store opened in 2015 with building materials and home appliances pulled by Workforce Training Program participants from homes on Staten Island that were slated for demolition. Today, the Salvage Store continues to stock materials salvaged from homes and obtained through public and private donations.



Rebuilding Together NYC recovered **8,842 pounds of materials** in 2016 that were headed for the waste stream.





Recycle-A-Bicycle fosters youth development and environmental education by refurbishing and reusing donated bicycles. Recycle-A-Bicycle hosts a variety of engaging community activities and is dedicated to the health, development, stewardship, and empowerment of New York City youth. On average, Recycle-A-Bicycle salvages 1,800 bicycles each year from the waste stream. Purchases from Recycle-A-Bicycle storefronts support youth education programs. Recycle-A-Bicycle is a program of Bike New York.

Recycle-A-Bicycle collected **30,000 pounds of bicycles and bicycle accessories** for reuse in 2016.



REFOUNDRY EVERY STORY HAS VALUE

Refoundry helps people who have been through the correctional system transition from drawing on, to contributing to, the tax base. Program participants are trained to repurpose discarded materials into home furnishings, culminating in participants launching their own businesses. Refoundry has established a costefficient and scalable model that can empower those most affected by our broken criminal justice system to transform their lives and their communities.

Refoundry projects that when the program is fully scaled, product sales will cover **50% of operating costs**, including participants' salaries.



Rescuing Leftover Cuisine (RLC) is dedicated to helping the hungry by rescuing leftover food and donating it to homeless shelters. RLC aims to eliminate food waste in communities, make food rescue sustainable and universal, and reduce hunger. RLC partners with licensed food vendors and companies that have catered lunches and events, to rescue their leftover food and deliver it to a local human service agency that feeds hungry and food insecure individuals.



In 2016, Rescuing Leftover Cuisine provided food to **25 nonprofits serving 378,740 clients**.





Room to Grow (RTG) enriches the lives of babies born into poverty throughout their critical first three years of development. RTG's innovative program delivers three critical types of support—parenting education, material support, and service referrals —to new babies and their families. Through an individualized and holistic preventative approach, RTG aims to increase the probability that children will later enter school ready to learn and meet their full potential in education, work, and citizenship.

Room to Grow New York distributed **more than 68,000 items** to clients in 2016.



SAINT LUKE'S THE CHURCH OF SAINT LUKE IN THE FIELDS

Saint Luke's Thrift Shop is part of the ministry of The Church of Saint Luke in the Fields in the heart of Greenwich Village. Saint Luke's Thrift Shop is one of the Village's "best kept secrets" for thrift-store shoppers; all proceeds go to support programs and services offered by the church. The thrift shop works directly with the neighborhood's homeless population to provide individuals with needed clothing, job interview attire, and other essentials.

Volunteers logged **4,000 hours** supporting the mission of Saint Luke's Thrift Shop in 2016.



The Salvation Army Greater New York Division

operates thrift stores and numerous social service centers throughout New York City. Their work supports people in shelters, schools, daycare centers, and emergency services around the world, including more than 100 social service programs in New York City alone. The Salvation Army is an international faith-based charitable organization with a simple mission: to help those in need without discrimination.



The Salvation Army Greater New York collected and distributed **more than 13 million pounds of goods** that might have otherwise been discarded.





Second Chance Toys rescues gently used plastic toys and donates them to organizations that care for children in need. Toys are collected twice yearly, around the holiday season and Earth Month. The toy collections help the environment by keeping nonbiodegradable plastic out of landfills, and the toys help enhance children's development by promoting socialization, creativity, emotional security, motor skills, and learning.

Second Chance Toys received **more than 27,000 toys** in 2016, benefiting children and keeping **110,000 pounds of plastic** from landfills.





The **Stapleton UAME Church** was organized in 1801, and the Outreach Ministry was established in 1987, primarily dedicated to helping the homeless population. The economic recession led to greater numbers of people with no jobs or low-paying jobs, and more people needing assistance to make ends meet. The Outreach Ministry has been dedicated to meeting the needs of the local community by offering a soup kitchen, a food pantry, a clothing drive, and community-building projects.

The Stapleton UAME soup kitchen and food pantry provide **more than 150,000 meals a year**.



TDF Costume Collection houses more than 85,000 costumes and accessories donated from Broadway, Off Broadway, opera, film, regional productions, and individuals, and provides costume rentals at affordable prices to nonprofit performing arts companies and other groups nationwide. This allows fledgling companies to mount more professional-looking shows, while keeping costs down and reducing the impact on the environment.



TDF Costume Collection rents out **10,000 costumes** each year.



teaching beyond the square **Teaching Beyond the Square** (TBS) is guided by an exploration-based approach for early childhood education. TBS seeks to improve the quality of early childhood education through collaborations with schools and professional development for educators. The Materials Center, established in partnership with Educational Alliance, is a public resource dedicated to collecting "found" materials, objects that are often discarded, but can be repurposed into something new —encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and action.

Since opening The Materials Center in 2016, Teaching Beyond the Square has served **more than 100 area schools**.







That Suits You has served **more than 4,500 men** since its founding in 2013.



Unidos Si Se Puede provides Latin American families and low-income individuals in East Harlem with services to help improve their social, educational, and economic status. Unidos Si Se Puede works towards keeping families and communities united by offering educational classes, recreational activities, support groups, referrals, screenings for city benefits, legal services workshops, and job-readiness training, as well as by operating a clothing and food bank.



Unidos Si Se Puede operates seven days a week with an all-volunteer staff, offering **more than a dozen free services** to local residents.



UNITED CHURCH OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES United Church of Praise International Ministries,

located in Staten Island, helps people in emergency situations with resources and guidance. The organization provides food, clothing, interview attire, toys, diapers, home building supplies and renovation, appliances, and rental assistance to families in need. The mission of United Church of Praise International Ministries is "to serve God through word and witness; to treat all human beings as sisters and brothers; and to foster responsible stewardship of all God's creation."

United Church of Praise provides assistance to **more than 21,000 families** each year.





World Vision Greater New York serves all of New York City. The communitybased resource center distributes donated items such as clothing, food, personal care items, school supplies, furniture, household goods, and more to hundreds of partner organizations and schools each year.

In 2016 World Vision Greater New York distributed goods to **more than 300 organizations** reaching **more than 600,000 individuals.**



Xavier Mission has served New Yorkers in need since 1983. Begun by parishioners of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, Xavier Mission incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization in 2012. Xavier Mission has outreach programs to supply clients with donated clothing, hot meals, free groceries, financial assistance, overnight shelter, and a life-skills training and empowerment program.



In 2016, **more than 73,000 meals** were served in Xavier Mission's weekly soup kitchen.



YogA F^osteR

Yoga Foster creates accessible, sustainable yoga programs in schools, and empowers school teachers to create healthier, happier classrooms for themselves and their students, by providing online training, curricula, and yoga mats. Yoga Foster helps give new life to used but still useful yoga mats; after use in Yoga Foster programs, heavily-used mats are donated to animal shelters and gardening programs to be reused—again.

Through the efforts of Yoga Foster, **more than 11,000 students** practiced yoga in 2016.



In 2016, our Partners reached more than Depiet through their programs and services.

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