

Mayor Adams, Chancellor Banks, No Kid Hungry Recognize This Year's "NYC Hunger Heroes"

March 10, 2022

Video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOE2dS0GF6Q>

Cooks, Food Service Workers, and Aides Go Above and Beyond to Provide Healthy, Nutritious Meals to 800,000 Students Every Day

New York – New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor David C. Banks were today joined by *No Kid Hungry New York* to recognize 32 "[Hunger Heroes](#)" across every one of the city's school districts. Each Hunger Hero has gone above and beyond in the last year to help provide more kids access to healthy meals, especially during the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hunger Heroes include cooks, aides, and food service workers – those on the front lines of fighting hunger in schools.

With one in four children in New York City facing hunger this year, the people who prepare, serve and plan school meals are some of the most important people confronting this crisis. New York City's food services staff serve more than 800,000 meals every day.

"The real heroes don't wear capes – they wear aprons and gloves," said **Mayor Adams**. "The school workers who have gone above and beyond to ensure our children don't go hungry have delivered for our children, day after day, because when our children eat right, we can help them live up to their potential, inside and outside the classroom. These Hunger Heroes deserve our respect and gratitude, but we still have a long way to go. That's why we are joining the Mayors' Alliance to End Child Hunger and taking action to provide all of New York's children with healthy food options."

"Our food service employees are all true heroes – they are continuing to show up, even throughout the pandemic, to make sure that our young people are well-fed and taken care of each day. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor," said **DOE Chancellor Banks**. "I know I speak on behalf of all our New York City families and school communities when I say thank you for all you do every day to be heroes for our young people."

"I am grateful every day for the commitment of the school food workers serving healthy meals to our city's children," said **Kate MacKenzie, executive director, Mayor's Office of Food Policy**. "These 'Hunger Heroes' – like Mohammed Uddin of District 20, where my two kids attend school – are to be celebrated for the work they do, and I am thrilled to join the mayor and the chancellor in recognizing them today."

"Our Hunger Heroes are too often unsung heroes, but they are some of the most vital professionals in our school communities," said **Rachel Sabella, director, No Kid Hungry New York**. "No matter what challenges children may face at home, they can count on our Hunger Heroes to go above and beyond to provide good, healthy meals every school day. We are so thankful for their work, and for all the dedicated people working in our schools to keep kids strong and healthy."

"With all the waste that occurs each and every day, no one should go hungry. Food is not a privilege, it's a right, and starving for food is inhumane. I believe the Office of Food & Nutrition Services – the second largest of food distribution besides the Armed Forces – can take the lead," said **Shaun D. Francois, president, District Council 37 & Local 372**. "It's extremely important for our kids' education because food feeds the mind. School food workers work hard each and every day to provide 800,000 nutritional meals a day to 1.1 million children – now that's heroism to say the least."

This year's Hunger Heroes include people like Treza Ayoub, the cook in charge at Jackson Heights' P.S. 149 since 1998. When a nearby apartment building suffered a fire last April, displacing several students and causing them to miss school, Treza made sure every student still got their breakfast and lunch.

This year's Hunger Heroes are:

Manhattan

- *District 1: Pedro Rivas, Senior School Lunch Helper (P.S. 140 Nathan Straus)*
- *District 2: Aretha Garner, Cook (International High School at Union Square)*
- *District 3: Brittany Saffold, School Food Service Manager (P.S. 009 Sarah Anderson, West End Secondary School, The Urban Assembly School for Green Careers, P.S. 452)*
- *District 4: Sofia Rodriguez, School Lunch Aid/Cook (Central Park East High School)*
- *District 5: Snezhana Belja, School Food Service Manager (P.S. 046 Arthur Tappan, P.S. 194 Countee Cullen, Frederick Douglass Academy, Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School)*
- *District 6: Consuelo Caballero, School Lunch Assistant/Cook-in-Charge (P.S. 189)*

Bronx

- *District 7: Ana Blanco, Cook (Academy of Applied Mathematics and Technology)*
- *District 8: Gisell Ramirez, Senior School Lunch Aide/Head Cook (Archimedes Academy for Math, Science and Technology Applications)*
- *District 9: Patricia Lightfoot, School Lunch Helper (I.S. 339)*
- *District 10: Marixa Lopez, School Lunch Helper/Office Manager (Field Office 10 @ M.S 391)*
- *District 11: James Baker, Senior School Lunch Helper (P.S. 108 Philip J. Abinanti)*
- *District 12: Marjorie Coates, Senior School Lunch Aide/Cook (P.S. 211)*

Brooklyn

- *District 13: Glenys Gonzalez, Sr. SLH (P.S. 008 Robert Fulton)*
- *District 14: Allison Anderson, Senior School Lunch/Cook (P.S. 297 Abraham Stockton)*
- *District 15: Maria Rivera, Sr. SLH (The Maurice Sendak Community School, Brooklyn School of the Arts)*

- *District 16: Cherise Neal, School Food Service Manager (P.S. 005 Dr. Ronald McNair, Boys & Girls H.S., Research and Service High School, Nelson Mandela High School)*
- *District 17: Tyrone Joseph, Heavy Duty Person (Pathways in Technology Early College High School)*
- *District 18: Lezlie Johnston, School Lunch Aide (P.S. 115 Daniel Mucatel School)*
- *District 19: Albert Robinson, School Lunch Aide (W. H. Maxwell Career and Technical Education High School)*
- *District 20: Mohammed Uddin, Sr. School Lunch Helper (P.S. 264 Bay Ridge Elementary School for the Arts)*
- *District 21: Terencia Hankins, School Lunch Aide (P.S. 288 Shirley Tanyhill)*
- *District 22: Sophia Davis, School Lunch Aide/Cook-in-Charge (P.S. 193 Gil Hodges)*
- *District 23: Yonnette Welcome, Senior School Lunch Aide (Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School)*
- *District 32: Luis Mendoza Jr, Cook (P.S. 376)*

Queens

- *District 24: Ruth Quizhpe, School Lunch Assistant/Cook (I.S. 061 Leonardo Da Vinci)*
- *District 25: Jessica Floratos, School Lunch Aide (P.S. 079 Francis Lewis)*
- *District 26: Lisa Fusco, School Food Service Manager (P.S. 041 Crocheron, M.S. 158 Marie Curie, P.S. 376, P.S. 213 The Carl Ullman School)*
- *District 27: Bella Tufano, Sr. School Lunch Aide/Cook-in-Charge (P.S. 100 Glen Morris)*
- *District 28: Ophelia Rango, School Lunch Assistant/Cook (Hillcrest High School)*
- *District 29: Joel Baptiste, School Lunch Aide (Eagle Academy for Young Men III)*
- *District 30: Treza Ayoub, Senior School Lunch Aide/Cook-in-Charge (P.S. 149 Christa McAuliffe)*

Staten Island

- *District 31: Saffa Aboelenin, Senior School Lunch Aide (I.S. 007 Elias Bernstein)*