

Lucia Russett, LSA Family Health Service's Director of Advocacy and Food Pantry, wrote a letter to the editor of the New York Times regarding a recent article on summer shortages at New York city food pantries.

The New York Times

Hunger in Working Families

TO THE EDITOR:

Re "At a Refuge for the City's Hungry, Summer Is a Time of Scarcity," by Jim Dwyer (About New York column, July 15):

The need for community food programs is growing fast among the working poor — people who have jobs and work hard, but who still don't make enough to feed their families.

I have witnessed this firsthand, seeing an increase in demand at our pantry at LSA Family Health Service in East Harlem, particularly among families with at least one working adult. This is especially troubling because food insecurity is not an isolated problem.

When families are struggling to buy groceries, they are usually also struggling with other challenges of poverty: unaffordable housing, low wages and conditions that can lead to developmental delays in children.

Low inventory at a food pantry points to a much broader, systemic injustice. It will be vitally important for our elected officials to invest more in human services, including pantries, and to push for the systemwide changes that will lift families out of poverty.

LUCIA RUSSETT

Director, Advocacy and Food Pantry
LSA Family Health Service
New York