



795 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, www.breadandlife.org

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Contact: Debra J. Caruso
DJC Communications
(212) 907-0051
debra@djccommunications.com

St. John's Bread & Life to Host National Food Day Open House Chef Event
Brooklyn-based program invites local chefs to learn about innovative delivery of organic, locally grown food and helping the poor

As part of National Food Day, St. John's Bread and Life, Brooklyn's innovative and life-saving food service program based in Bedford-Stuyvesant, is inviting Brooklyn chefs and purveyors to learn about how the organization is marrying the procurement of old-fashioned, locally grown organic produce with the latest technology to deliver healthy, cost-effective meals to those in need.



St. John's Bread and Life, located at 795 Lexington Avenue, will hold an open house on Monday, October 24th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The event coincides with this year's National Food Day – a grassroots mobilization that seeks to improve America's food policies. St. John's Bread and Life will be one of thousands of organizations around the country, on October 24th, celebrating and educating Americans on healthy, affordable and sustainable food. Visit Foodday.org to sign up for the event.

Members of the Brooklyn food community will learn about the following programs at the St. John's Bread and Life soup kitchen, food pantry, and social service provider:

- **Local Produce Link** – In a cooperative effort to promote healthy nutrition in low income neighborhoods, Bread and Life serves as a link between upstate farmers – namely J. Glebocki Farms in Goshen N.Y. and Windflower Farm in Valley Falls, N.Y. – and local community members. Bread and Life also receives significant produce from United Way, City Harvest and Food Bank.

- Bread and Life, using CSA's innovative Hub and Spoke approach is a distributing site to other agencies as well. Participants receive fresh fruits, vegetables, and other farm produce in season.
- **Nutrition Counseling** – Learn more about the food pyramid and eating healthy through the organization's nutrition counseling program.
 - **Digital Choice Food Pantry** – The unique and ground-breaking Digital Choice Food Pantry distributes uncooked meals to those who otherwise would not have food to feed their families. The Food Pantry is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, and Friday (for seniors only) from 9 a.m. to noon. The pantry is closed on the first Friday of each month.
 - **Soup Kitchen** – St. John's Bread and Life's main Soup Kitchen serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. All meals are planned and prepared under the guidance of a Certified New York State Nutritionist. Menus are developed based on our guests' nutritional needs and their cultural diversity, as well as quality and availability of products.
 - **Cooking Demonstrations** – The organization regularly provides cooking demonstrations to those in the community to show them how to present healthy, cost-efficient meals for their families.
 - **Sponsor A Family** – This holiday celebration ensures that Christmas is always merry, regardless of economic status. Bread and Life provides food and toy packages to two thousand families. Last Christmas, over 5,500 toys and 2,000 food packages were distributed to families and individuals. This year all food is being produced by New York State farmers and grown in a sustainable and healthy way.

"By reaching out to the many wonderful chefs and restaurant owners in Brooklyn, we're both soliciting their help for a worthy cause and sharing with them our own knowledge of providing wholesome, fresh, locally produced food," said Anthony Butler, executive director, St. John's Bread & Life.

About St. John's Bread and Life

Founded in 1982, Bread and Life is a faith-based, 501(c)(3) organization located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in New York City: the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. The organization's mission is to empower those served stabilizing families and individuals and the communities in which they live. The organization serves as a single-stop provider of food, nutrition, health and social services to people in need, including but not limited to presenting more than 2,000 meals daily/400,000 annually and the following: Case management, medical services and nutritional counseling to 25,000+ community members every year. The organization also operates a Digital Choice Food Pantry providing fresh food chosen to those served via computer terminal.

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