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ROBIN HOOD

Reflecting on one year of relief and recovery.

This week marks one year since we reactivated our [Relief Fund](#). Last year at this time, we were just learning about the coronavirus. We knew very little. What we did know was that, for the foreseeable future, life as we knew it would change. And we knew that communities that have endured the greatest health and economic disparities were likely to be the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Thanks to your unwavering support and generosity, Robin Hood distributed **\$73.5 million** through **909 grants to 624 community partners** over the past 12 months. This money has funded emergency cash assistance, healthcare and housing services, food distribution programs, and more. And although we have been socially distant, we have connected through 42 incredible Funders Calls, two television specials, our first ever virtual [Investors](#) and [No City Limits](#) conferences, and through our Notes from the Field newsletter. As we continue to move toward recovery from this crisis, we want to take this opportunity to just say: **THANK YOU!**

“2020 was a year of overwhelming adversity for all of us, but it was particularly hard for our most vulnerable neighbors. The systemic failures that condemn so many Americans – particularly communities of color – are not new. And we had to respond with speed and love to address these issues. We had to enter with humility, work with our community partners, and focus on building a better infrastructure that doesn’t so repeatedly and heartlessly leave people behind. Focusing on direct cash assistance, investing in leaders of color, involving community members in our grantmaking decisions, and focusing on learning loss were just some of the areas that we are proud to have moved quickly to address.”

– CEO Wes Moore



Image courtesy of The Heights Friendly Fridge

Robin Hood Teen Council member fights hunger in Crown Heights.

According to the Poverty Tracker, 42% of New Yorkers experienced food hardship in 2020, up 12% from the previous year. One person who knew that reality, if not the precise numbers, is **Charlie Hirschhorn, a sophomore at Scarsdale High School and member of Robin Hood's Teen Council**. That's why he partnered with a friend to establish the Community Fridge in Crown Heights.

The fridge stands on the sidewalk at 461 Lincoln Place, and it is stocked with fresh food and produce for anyone in need to come and take. "Some people might take just a carton of milk," Hirschhorn said. "Some people might take everything that's in there, and that's okay."

Fourteen volunteers restock it with groceries twice a day, every day. But local businesses and bakeries also donate extra food, random neighbors add a product or two, and a local ice cream maker is providing pints for the freezer, making it a genuinely community fridge.

It looks great, too: Underhill Walls painted the refrigerator and the murals around it.

Hirschhorn is just getting started — by spring he hopes to have three more fridges up and running. Learn more about his project [here](#).

An important win in our fight against child poverty.

Child poverty costs Americans between \$700 billion and \$1.1 trillion per year. So we set a goal this year to cut the child poverty rate in half. Recognizing that reforming the child tax would be our most significant anti-poverty tool, we have been working in coalition with other organizations to expand the tax credit, make it refundable and permanent. Last week with the passage of the American Rescue Act, the child tax credit was expanded and made refundable through the end of 2021. As a result,