



Community Soup Kitchen Newsletter

SUMMER 2025



Dear Friends and Supporters of CSK,

So far in 2025, CSK has expanded its reach more than in any other period of its nearly 50-year history. From neighborhood launches to strategic partnerships, we are feeding more people, meeting more needs, and demonstrating—with resolve and gratitude—how powerful a community can be when it comes together to serve.

Over 102,000 meals have already been served across New Haven this year, and thanks to you, we're on pace to exceed 175,000 by year-end. CSK is building more than just capacity—we're building trust, dignity, and community resilience throughout the city.

Despite this progress, we are acutely aware of challenges beyond our control. **Food bank supplies have declined**, forcing **CSK to purchase a greater share of the food we serve**—just as **more guests are expected to seek emergency meal assistance** due to proposed reductions in SNAP benefits here in Connecticut. These twin pressures mean **we must lean more heavily on the generosity of our supporters to meet this moment**. Still, we remain steadfast in our belief that **if we stay true to our mission and live our principles, the help we need—both for us and for those we serve—will come.**

CSK Board of Directors

The Ladle Speaks!

Closing the Meal Gap: 2025 Halfway Mark Update

CSK + IRIS: A Partnership With Purpose

"Exactly What Makes America Great..."

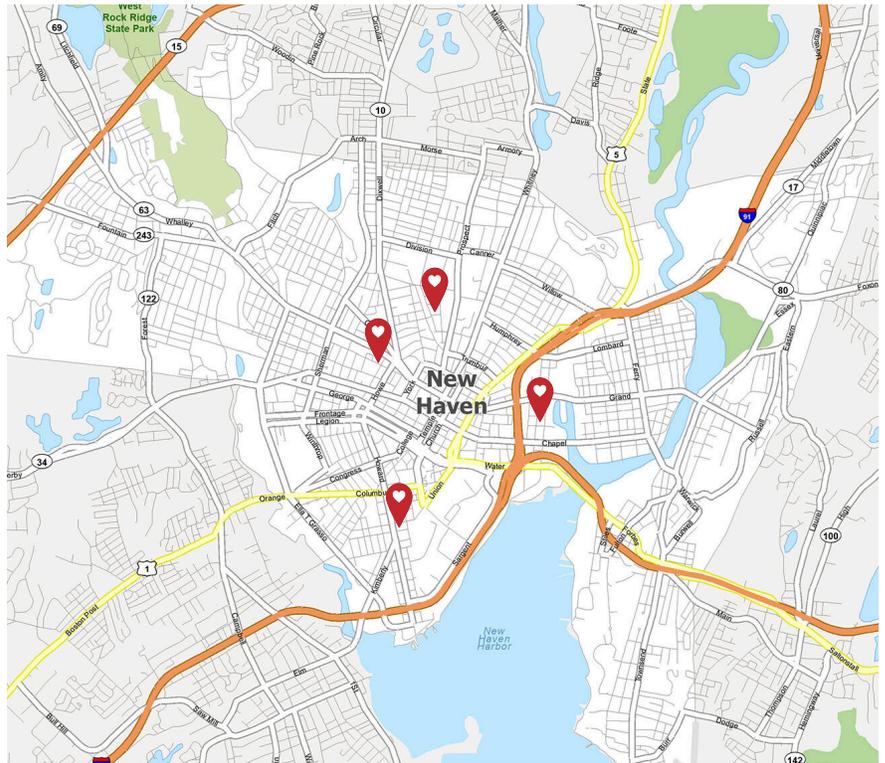
Join Us! Nourish New Haven 2025 Annual Dinner

Neighborhood Meal Snapshot

Closing the Meal Gap: Strategic Plan Update

Our Closing the Meal Gap plan is advancing at full speed, delivering targeted service in New Haven's most food-insecure neighborhoods:

- **Newhallville (5 Hazel St.)** – Now operating four days/week and serving **230+ meals/day**
- **The Hill (33 Lambertson St.)** – Launched in March, has scaled from **25 to 140+ meals/day**
- **Fair Haven** – Now anchored at **75 Hamilton Street**, in partnership with IRIS, serving both meals and pantry distributions. **With your help, over 32,000 meals have been supported at this site through the first half of the year.**



Powering Our Mission: Volunteers & Staff

With **more than 500 volunteers** registered, and dozens active each month, CSK's operations continue to be community-driven. In 2025, we've also welcomed three exceptional new team members:

- **Jean Walker**, Administrative Support & Assistant Volunteer Coordinator
- **Diamond Tree**, Warehouse Manager
- **Fran Jaworowicz**, Guest Coordinator, Director of Clothing and Hygiene Programs

Their leadership, vision, and hands-on care are already making an impact citywide.

Corporate and Campus Partners Stepping In

- **We welcomed ASSA ABLOY** as an anchor corporate partner, with financial support, regular "ASSA ABLOY @ CSK" volunteer days, and resources to help CSK share its message and build out new locations. Thank you to our neighborhood partners at AA for all you do!
- **Yale Community Kitchen @ CSK** has launched Friday and Saturday dinner service — **with over 1,200 meals served YTD**
- **Haven's Harvest** has rescued and delivered over **6,000 lbs of food**, reducing waste, expanding our ability to source food supplies and helping CSK to meet the increasing need for food as we Close the Meal Gap in New Haven. Volunteer driving opportunities to join the Haven's Harvest food rescue team can assist CSK further. E-mail at development@csknewhaven.org with interest!

More Than Meals: Needed Guest Services



Public Shower Program

175+ guests have received private showers through our **Public Shower Program**.



Clothing Items

Over **1,500 clothing items** distributed--coats, shoes, socks, blankets, and essentials through the CSK Clothing Program.



Public Internet Access

A new **75" interactive smart board**, funded by a grant from **Connecticut Foodshare**, now anchors our dining room-- providing real-time updates, service information, and CSK's first **multilingual AI guest services assistant**



CSK + IRIS: A Warehouse With Purpose

This spring, CSK formalized a transformative partnership with **IRIS – Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services**, co-developing a **5,000-square-foot food warehouse and donation center at 75 Hamilton Street**.

Together, we have created:

- A shared logistics hub for **emergency food storage and distribution**
- A scalable platform for future meal service expansion across the city
- A space that has already helped power over **32,000 meals served YTD** through IRIS's pantry and CSK's neighborhood program

This facility has strengthened not only our supply chain—but also our community ties and our long-term sustainability. **We are proud to call this a flagship site for food support in New Haven.**



“Exactly What Makes America Great.”

“I just think that Community Soup Kitchen and IRIS are exactly what makes America great.” - **Governor Ned Lamont**, April 2025 press conference at CSK

As much as CSK has always believed in doing more and saying less, we've been humbled to receive local and statewide attention for the work being done by our staff, volunteers, and partners.

Recent media coverage includes:

- [Fox 61: CSK and IRIS partner to reduce hunger](#)
 - [CT Mirror: 'Closing the Meal Gap' brings meals to where they're needed](#)
 - [New Haven Independent: A New Era for CSK](#)
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Nourish New Haven 2025

Join Us!

Where: 75 Hamilton Street

When: Saturday, November 8 | 5:30-8:00 PM

We hope you'll join us for our annual fall celebration:
"Nourish New Haven: Join CSK to Close the Meal Gap."

Enjoy great food, live music, and a celebration of the volunteers and partners who make this work possible. Come see our new warehouse in action and hear stories from the front lines of CSK's mission.

Corporate Sponsors please contact development@csknewhaven.org for more details!

Closing the Meal Gap: Neighborhood Snapshot

Neighborhood	2025 Goal	Meals Served YTD
84 Broadway	54,000	72,800
Newhallville	26,000	21,900
The Hill	22,000	7,100
Fair Haven	27,000	1,200
CHIPP Program	7,000	6,000
TOTAL	136,000	102,000+

We are currently **on track to exceed our year-end meal target by more than 25%**, thanks to incredible partners, streamlined logistics and your unwavering support.

Thank You for Standing With Us

Each meal we serve, each guest we welcome, and each neighborhood we reach is a testament to what this community can accomplish when we work together.

Thank you for the continued support that allows us serve the CSK mission.

With gratitude and resolve,

The CSK Board and Staff

Questions or ideas?

Contact development@csknewhaven.org or call (203) 624-4594

www.csknewhaven.org



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