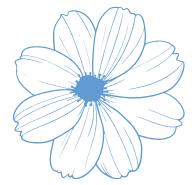




# Community Impact Spring Newsletter



Spring 2024

## A note from our Executive Director

CI students are an incredibly diverse group united by a common purpose: to serve the public good by tackling our community's most pressing social and environmental problems.

Our CI volunteers come from varied experiences and viewpoints. Yet, they have collaborated to ensure that their food pantry, adult education classes, and youth programs have continued to deliver vital services to those in need.

Our students have consistently supported each other throughout a tumultuous year at Columbia — as our campus has struggled to balance free speech, political advocacy, and campus safety. For many, this is a beloved community and a safe haven of service, with its epicenter at Earl Hall.

And together, we celebrate this service.

We couldn't be prouder of our 100 graduating seniors this spring, and we welcome them all into CIAO — the Community Impact Alumni Organization. CIAO is integral to our success, as alumni advise and mentor the next generation of our student leaders and invest directly in their exciting work.

This summer is a season for planning, and we look forward to hearing from you and starting a conversation about how you can stay engaged with us. Please consider donating to our Spring Campaign, as your support makes a significant difference.

*Richard Hamill*

## Celebrating Sandy Helling: A Community Impact Cornerstone

After 35 years of dedicated service, Sandy Helling has retired from Community Impact. One of our very first employees, Sandy has made monumental contributions to CI, earning her titles as an extraordinary teacher, mentor, grant writer, and CI historian.



Sandy created and directed emergency services and adult education programs for many years. Her collaboration with West Harlem Group Assistance significantly bridged the digital divide for neighborhood residents. Sandy holds a Bachelor of Arts from New College and two Master's degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a true Education Innovator.

We celebrate her incredible legacy and are inspired by her lifelong commitment to helping others. If you'd like to contribute to CI in Sandy's name, our Spring Campaign is the perfect opportunity to keep her legacy alive!



[communityimpact.columbia.edu](https://communityimpact.columbia.edu)

# Celebrating Public Service

## Community Impact's Public Service Awards Breakfast

On April 19th, Community Impact (CI) hosted its inaugural Public Service Awards Breakfast in Earl Hall. The event raised over \$65,000 and honored exceptional leaders for their contributions to civic engagement and social impact in New York. A special tribute was paid to Sandy Helling, CI's Senior Associate Director, who retired after 35 years of service. We wish her well in what we know will be an active retirement fighting for social justice.

Donations can still be made at [communityimpact.columbia.edu](https://communityimpact.columbia.edu). Your generous contributions help catalyze enduring change in the communities surrounding campus.

### Cheers to Volunteers!

THANK YOU to EVERY volunteer who coordinated a program, taught a class, mentored a teen, or served a meal at Community Lunch. We are incredibly grateful to all who have shared their time and talents with our CI programs in 2023-24. You are the change that we seek to make in the world.



# Our Collective Impact

Our outstanding students, staff, and community partners have profoundly affected the lives of our community. This year, CI surpassed its previous records regarding the number of meals served, adult learners taught, and neighborhood children mentored.

These achievements would not have been possible without your support. Help us continue setting new CI records in 2024-25!

## Youth Achievement

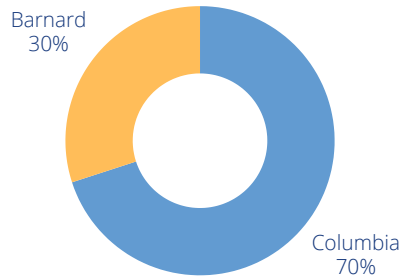


Participants  
800+

[Donate Here](#)

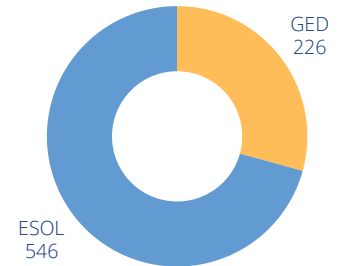


## Volunteers



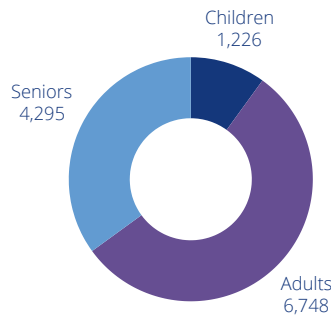
850 students

## Adult Education Classes



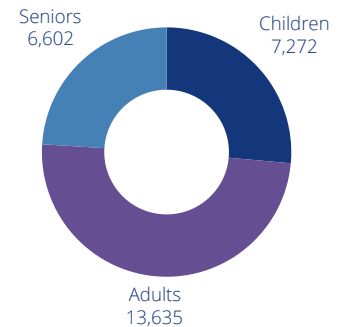
Serving 774 Adult Learners

## Community Lunch



Serving Nearly 30,000 clients

## Food Pantry



Serving Nearly 30,000 clients

Data: July 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

## Student Executive Board Update

The Student Executive Board leads decision-making within our Community Impact (CI) volunteer leadership team. This group oversees the allocation of the University's budget, marketing, and communications efforts and evaluates project outcomes and impacts.

This year, the Exec's Partnerships Committee spearheaded a transformative process, integrating existing student organizations into Community Impact. We are delighted to announce that three new groups have successfully approved.

Furthermore, the Resource Development Committee initiated a valuable workshop series, Impact(ED), this winter. This series, a testament to our commitment to students' development and education, featured a panel on Careers in K-12 Education and a discussion on Challenges with Immigration in NYC.

As we look ahead to the 2024-'25 school year, we are thrilled to welcome 13 new leaders to the Executive Board. We eagerly anticipate supporting them as they drive social change in Upper Manhattan. Please get to know these individuals by checking out their profiles on Instagram.



# Supporting Community Impact

Every year, CI must raise more than \$1M from friends and allies like you to fund its social and educational programming in the community. Whether equipping our food pantry to distribute 45,000 nourishing meals or mentoring more than 1,000 youth in local schools each year, CI profoundly shapes how a rising generation of Columbia and Barnard students practice engaged citizenship.

**DONATE**



Your financial support is vital for us to continue delivering high-impact programs in adult education, youth development, and housing and food security. As costs rise, your contribution helps cultivate public service leaders and strengthen our community. Join us in making a difference! Visit our [Spring Campaign](#) and scan the "Donate" button to make a gift today.

Alternatively, mail your contribution to:  
Satrina Boyce, Assistant Director of Development  
Community Impact, 105 Earl Hall  
2980 Broadway, New York, NY 10027



## GVA Fellowship 2024

For 15 years, Community Impact has managed the GVA Fellowship Program, enabling undergraduate students to engage in professional internships with nonprofit organizations throughout NYC. We are excited to announce the selection of five fellows for our summer 2024 cohort. This fellowship provides housing at Barnard College and includes a leadership curriculum facilitated by CI staff and alums.

Our 2024 fellows will work with organizations such as the Bronx Defenders, Central American Legal Assistance, Fortune Society, The Remedy Project, and Sanctuary for Families. We invite you to donate and support these changemakers, ensuring their continued impact on New York communities. Your contribution will help honor their commitment to driving change.

