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Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Receives NYHealth Emerging Innovator Award

(New York, NY) – On October 20, 2016, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House was honored to accept an NYHealth Emerging Innovator award in a ceremony at the Grand Hyatt New York as part of the New York State Health Foundation’s 10th anniversary awards program. The award recognizes five organizations poised to make radical improvements to the state of New York’s health over the next 10 years stating, “These five leaders represent the best of the best in New York State.” The award identified Lenox Hill Neighborhood House’s farm-to-institution training program, *The Teaching Kitchen at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House*, as a model of a new and innovative approach to tackle some of our most important and persistent health challenges.

The foundation’s judges were impressed with the creativity and reach of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House’s efforts to improve access to fresh, healthy, local foods among low-income New Yorkers. *The Teaching Kitchen* in particular struck the judges as an innovative, replicable, scalable model that could result in transformative change.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House will receive a grant of \$25,000 as part of the award.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is a 122-year-old settlement house that has become *the* frontrunner in the local nonprofit farm-to-institution movement by creating a model program serving 400,000 fresh, healthy and locally-sourced meals to low-income New Yorkers annually through two senior centers, a homeless shelter, Head Start and UPK program, after school, summer camp and a day program for older adults living with dementia. In September, their work was profiled in a lengthy article in *The New York Times*.

To expand their impact and address the enormous interest in their food program, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House created *The Teaching Kitchen*. *The Teaching Kitchen* is a nuts-and-bolts course for nonprofit food service program directors, chefs, nutritionists and lead kitchen staff who design menus, order supplies, provide nutrition oversight and programming and prepare food. The goal of the course is to help organizations assess their programs and implement actionable steps to significantly increase their clients’ access to and use of fresh, healthy and local food – *without raising costs*.

The Teaching Kitchen has already trained organizations serving approximately 1.5 million meals annually and will begin working with another seven organizations next month. Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is now working to scale the program to train 100 organizations annually, with the goal of training 500 nonprofits serving 40 million meals to low-income New Yorkers through senior centers, early childhood programs, homeless shelters, supportive housing residences and more. *The Teaching Kitchen’s* ultimate goal is to localize institutional food systems to improve health outcomes for low-income New Yorkers, support local farms, build the local economy and make New York more environmentally sustainable.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is deeply grateful to the New York State Health Foundation for this recognition of their innovations, for their essential support of their programs and for their important work to improve the health of all New Yorkers.