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 Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Nonprofit Holds Latest Pop-Up Food Pantry In East Harlem

Law360 (September 2, 2026, 9:13 AM EDT) -- A nonprofit founded by BakerHostetler Chief Marketing Officer Despina Kartson recently held a pop-up food pantry in East Harlem where more than 220 bags of fresh and shelf-stable food were given out to people in the community.



Volunteers of the nonprofit Philoxenia and a local ministry gave out food and toiletries at a pop-up food pantry in East Harlem on Aug. 28. (Courtesy of Despina Kartson)

The nonprofit Philoxenia Inc. partnered with staff and volunteers of the ministry Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates on Aug. 28 to distribute the food along with dental kits and toiletries.

In 2017, Kartson founded Philoxenia using proceeds from her memoir "Last Night's Soup Run: Feeding the Hungry and the Homeless" about volunteering for more than 10 years at a church soup kitchen in Midtown West in New York City.

Every year, Philoxenia produces about eight to 10 pop-up food pantries in Midtown, East Harlem, Harlem, Queens and Westchester County by partnering with local nonprofits like LEFSA that donate their space.

Philoxenia, which includes board members and volunteers from law firms and professional services companies, also hosts "Sandwiches and Socks" events where it partners with an organization to have high school students assemble sandwiches that are handed out with Bombas socks. The nonprofit is 100% funded by donations and sponsorships.

--Submitted by Philoxenia