

Growing Hope

Teens for Food Justice + Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center +
New York Common Pantry + DeWitt Clinton High School

A pilot partnership to expand access to healthy food for cancer patients.

This summer, **Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ)** is launching a three-month pilot with **Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center's Community Outreach & Engagement Program (COE)** and **New York Common Pantry (NYCP)**. The pilot will deliver weekly bags of fresh, nutrient-dense produce grown by TFFJ to 25-30 cancer patients at Mount Sinai's Rutenberg Treatment Center in East Harlem, expanding access to healthy food.

- **Participants:** 25-30 cancer patients
- **Timeline:** July 2026- September 2026, 6 weeks of student curriculum in health & nutrition
- **Produce:** Leafy greens, salad greens, and herbs grown at TFFJ's DeWitt Clinton High School in The Bronx

THE FOOD ACCESS INTERVENTION

Fresh produce, delivered weekly

- Leafy greens, salad greens, and herbs grown at TFFJ's DeWitt Clinton High School in The Bronx
- Crops selected by Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center dietitians to meet the needs of people in cancer treatment
- Pantry staples from New York Common Pantry accompany each delivery
- Recipe cards, food safety guidance for immunocompromised individuals, and nutrition support included
- Social workers assigned to connect patients with longer-term resources: God's Love We Deliver, NYCP's social services, SNAP enrollment, and local pantries

WHY THIS MODEL WORKS:

Hyper-local farming as health infrastructure

TFFJ hydroponic farms produce food year-round, independent of weather or supply chain disruptions, and the Rutenberg Treatment Center's East Harlem location puts them steps from New York Common Pantry. Critically, the produce here isn't generic: Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center's dietitians selected every crop to meet the needs of patients undergoing cancer treatment. If the model works, it can scale to hospital systems across the city facing the same challenges.

