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My name is Lisa Gesson. I encourage the Manhattan State Senate Delegation to include funds for each senator to make discretionary grants to nonprofit organizations in the 2020 budget. For smaller nonprofits, these grants are vital in carrying out our missions.

For the past 18 years, I've worked at the Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP), a small nonprofit located in District 28. YSOP introduces youth to volunteer service and the issues of homelessness and hunger, including hands-on service at soup kitchens, food pantries, urban gardens, and other agencies serving throughout NYC. Each program begins with an orientation to food insecurity and poverty and concludes with students reflecting on their service experiences. We believe this work is vitally important to help youth become active citizens. With our modest budget, the grants from our elected officials help YSOP engage young people from diverse communities, public and private schools and various religious groups, and to welcome all students to service, including students with disabilities.

YSOP's State Senator, Senator Krueger, like all of our State Senators, has a depth of knowledge



about the needs of folks in her district so she can direct grants to organizations that help her constituents. Senator Krueger, like all of our State Senators, should be able to continue directing Discretionary grants to nonprofits serving the people of her district. This photo shows some YSOP student participants who serve our neighbors, because like everyone else



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