

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kelly Carroll | kcarroll@wearedream.org | 914-755-9032

DREAM Partners with Brigaid to Launch From-Scratch Food Program in Bronx School

A new scratch-cooking program created in partnership with former Noma head chef Dan Giusti provides free fresh and healthy meals to more than 1,000 DREAM Charter Schools students each school day.

(New York City) November 9, 2023—DREAM, a 32-year public charter school network and youth development organization that operates in East Harlem and the Bronx, has partnered with foodservice consultants at **Brigaid** to launch a new from-scratch food program for the network's PreK-12 student body. Founded this fall at the DREAM Charter School in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx, this new program provides free fresh and healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to more than 1,000 students each school day.

"We are proud to partner with Brigaid in their effort to make school meals that are high quality, healthy, and accessible to all children," said DREAM co-Chief Executive Officer **Richard Berlin**. "Food has such a crucial impact on every part of a child's life, including mental and physical well-being, social-emotional growth, and performance in the classroom. At DREAM, we take great strides to ensure our students have everything they need to fulfill their greatest potential, and this new from-scratch food program is the latest support we can provide for them and their families."

Founded by former Noma head chef **Dan Giusti**, Brigaid is a team of professional chefs who help institutional foodservice programs thrive. The company provides strategic program assessments, hands-on staff training, and full-time chef placements to empower programs with the culinary expertise needed to consistently serve wholesome and high-quality meals. At DREAM, the majority of food is prepared from scratch in three state-of-the-art kitchens by an in-house culinary team under the guidance of Brigaid chef Persefoni Vordokas. All meals are free.

"Everyone deserves access to nourishing food that is thoughtfully prepared," said Brigaid Founder and Chief Executive Officer Dan Giusti. "We are extremely excited about this opportunity to collaborate with DREAM on building what we hope will become an exemplary school foodservice program."

89% of DREAM students qualify for free or reduced lunch, and children in DREAM's East Harlem and South Bronx communities have historically been among the most likely in New York City to face food insecurity in their lifetimes. Partnering with Brigaid is the latest step in DREAM's work to ensure students and families are fully supported. During the pandemic, for example, the organization distributed more than 10,000 bags of free food to its communities in

partnership with Hunts Point's S. Katzman Produce, led by Stefanie Katzman, a DREAM Board Member.

DREAM Charter School at 20 Bruckner Boulevard, which officially opened its doors in early 2023, is equipped with three restaurant-style kitchens that currently serve breakfast, lunch, and snacks to students. Over the next several years, DREAM looks to expand this program to its other campuses in East Harlem and Highbridge.

"At DREAM, we are deeply committed to educating the whole child, and partnering with Brigaid allows us to create even more supports and access to things children need to lead full, healthy, productive lives," said DREAM co-Chief Executive Officer **Eve Colavito**. "I'm looking forward to all the strides we will make with this year's from-scratch food program, and where we will take it in the future."

###

ABOUT DREAM

Originally founded as Harlem RBI, DREAM traces its beginnings to 1991, when a group of volunteers transformed an abandoned, garbage-strewn lot into two baseball diamonds for the youth of East Harlem. More than 30 years later, the organization serves thousands of children across East Harlem and the South Bronx through a network of free, extended-day, extended-year DREAM Charter Schools and community youth development programs. By developing a whole child model that is responsive to the unique academic and social needs of every child, DREAM is creating a future where all children are equipped to fulfill their vision of success.

For more information on DREAM and its mission, visit www.wearedream.org.

Press Contact:

Kelly Carroll
Director of Content and Media, DREAM
kcarroll@wearedream.org

ABOUT BRIGAIID

Brigaid is a team of professional chefs who help institutional foodservice programs thrive. The company provides strategic program assessments, hands-on staff training, and full-time chef placements to empower programs with the culinary expertise needed to consistently serve wholesome and high-quality meals.

For more information on Brigaid, visit www.chefsbrigaid.com.

Press Contact:

Audrey DaDalt
Communications Lead, Brigaid
ad@chefsbrigaid.com