

Nneji
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Dear Sir/Madam:

At the height of COVID-19, Queens Together presented itself to the community of restaurant owners, food businesses, and workers as an anchor in a season of uncertainty. Communities throughout the borough where residents relied on restaurant workers' earnings became a priority, which in turn, encouraged all food businesses to consider the different ways we could collaborate to keep our doors open and lights on. Since opening Nneji in June of 2020, Queens Together has been a powerful anchor and a constant source of information and support for the many facets of the food industry that shape our daily operations.

In the past year, QT has collaborated with Nneji to sponsor hot meals for families that live in areas hardest hit by the Pandemic and unemployment. QT has also participated in an initiative that supplies pantry items to needy residents in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) buildings. QT coordinated efforts with several restaurants, including Nneji, to bring hundreds of pounds of fresh produce and grains into community fridges in Astoria, Ravenswood, and Queensbridge locations. During the season of Ramadan, QT called on us to hot halal dishes to families who were in need of hearty *iftar* meals. As the owner of Nneji, it has given me a great deal of confidence to know that Jonathan Forgash and his team are always one call a way. When a fire brought devastation to a community that had already been struggling to regain its footing after COVID-19, QT organized meals and rallied support to help dozens of residents. The level of grassroots advocacy paired with a deep knowledge of the challenges and strengths of the food industry, particularly here in Queens, is what makes this non-profit organization a balm for our travails thus far and a bulwark for the work that still lies ahead.

It is my sincere hope that you will consider QT as a vital organization for the borough of Queens, its food businesses, and its residents, and support their endeavors. Nneji looks forward to strengthening its partnership with QT as we feel confident that they will deepen their community ties in ways that will benefit us all.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ajaero