

Chef Ann Cooper is an internationally recognized author, chef, educator, public speaker, and advocate of healthy food for all children. In a nation where kids are born with shorter estimated life expectancies than their parents due to diet-related disease, Chef Ann has been a constant champion of school food reform as an important avenue through which to improve childhood nutrition.

ABOUT CHEF ANN COOPER

In 2009, Chef Ann founded the [Chef Ann Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping schools take action so that every child has daily access to fresh, healthy food.

Also known as the “Renegade Lunch Lady,” Chef Ann served for 11 years as the Director of Food Services for Boulder Valley School District in Boulder, Colorado. Currently, Ann is Partner of Lunch Lessons, LLC, a consultancy for school districts going through large-scale food change.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Ann has over 45 years of experience as a cook and chef, including 20 years in school food programs. Her books *Bitter Harvest* and *Lunch Lessons: Changing the Way We Feed Our Children* have made her a leading advocate for safe, sustainable food.

ADVISORY POSITIONS

To raise further awareness about the value of healthy food systems, Chef Ann has held several executive and advisory positions:

- Executive Committee Member, [Chefs Collaborative](#)
- Fellow, [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) Food & Society Policy
- Board Member, [USDA's National Organic Standards Board](#) (by congressional appointment)
- Member, Google Food
- President and Board Member, [Women's Chefs and Restaurateurs](#)
- President, American Culinary Federation of Central Vermont
- Advisory Board Member, Real Food for Kids
- Committee Chair, [Healthy Kids Collaborative](#)
- Founding Member, [ScratchWorks](#)
- Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council

Chef Ann has also been honored by the National Resources Defense Council, awarded an honorary doctorate from SUNY Cobleskill for her work on sustainable agriculture, and received IACP's 2012 Humanitarian of the Year award. Named one of the “Influential 20” by Food Service Director Magazine and one of the top 15 Crusaders for Health in the Food Industry by Greatist.com, Ann has also received the Women Chefs and Restaurateurs' Community Service Award and a Special Inspirational Award from the Susan B. Komen Foundation. In 2016, she was named “One of the Top 50 Food Activists” by the Academy of Culinary Nutrition. In 2019, Ann was named an [“American Food Hero”](#) by EatingWell.