

# News From Long Island Cares

# Grassroots

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2

Fall 2002

## Inside Issues



Lynn Needelman,  
Long Island Cares  
Executive Director

For the past two years, Long Island Cares has been preparing for the challenge of change for all of us at the food-bank. This fall marks the beginning of a new chapter in the Long Island Cares story, as we prepare to move into our new building at 10

Davids Drive in Hauppauge. By the time you read this, we will be there.

It is a very exciting time for all of us; executive director, board member, staff member, volunteer and donor alike, as we look forward to serving our agencies and the families of Long Island with greater capacity, greater effectiveness and greater speed.

It is an important time in our history to reflect on what brought us here. As I was preparing this message, a familiar question came to mind.

Harry Chapin, our founder used to say, "Well, what are *you* going to do"? Harry was committed to the concept that one individual can literally make all the difference in the world.

When Long Island Cares was founded in 1980, it supplied food to only five emergency food pantries to assist people with temporary set backs. Harry Chapin's thought, logical and simple enough, was that **no one** in our Long Island Community should be hungry. In 2002, Long Island Cares will supply over **560** agencies with over 4.5 million pounds of food in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties as well as run hundreds of community outreach workshops and job training sessions to address the systemic causes of hunger.

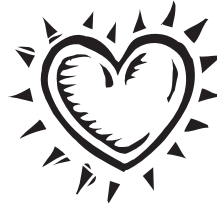
How did we do this? Because the question, "well, what are you going to do?", has been answered over and over by hundreds of caring "ones", who like Harry, believe in their ability to make a difference. They have, and they do.

Long Island Cares has been strengthened and nourished one-by-one, by our loyal supporters, volunteers and staff; a fact

*cont. on page 4*

## Generosity of Spirit!

Over the years, many individuals and corporations have organized innovative Food Drives that have assisted Long Island Cares in its mission to feed the hungry. Look at the creativity and ingenuity!



Community Synagogue of Port Washington all include food drives on Yom Kippur.

■ Vikki Cangelosi, sales manager for Magill Associates and chair of the HIA (Hauppauge Industrial Association) spear heads this

drive for Long Island Cares, requesting businesses to collect food prior to their summer luncheon.

■ Significant birthdays, such as Rosemarie Milillo and Camille Raciopio, who requested cans of food and cash donations at their birthday bash;

■ John DeGeorge turns his house into a Halloween extravaganza and charges cans of food as an admission price.

To mark a birthday, holiday, special event or for no particular reason at all a food drive is a powerful way to help others struggling to survive.

We hope these ideas will encourage and inspire you to organize your own food drive. To find out more, call Kristine at (631) 582-FOOD (3663)!!

■ Cub Scout Pack 168 in Syosset organized a food drive as part of their monthly pack meeting and donated \$500 from a bake sale!

■ United Food & Commercial Workers Union – Region 7 – Women's Network selected one Saturday and had members run food drives at various supermarkets.

■ First Grade Classes of Forest Lake Elementary School celebrated 100 Days of School by bringing in 100 cans of food and ended up doubling the amount;

■ Hayley and Alexandra Fiorella celebrated a joint Bat Mitzvah and asked guests to bring in a food donation;

■ Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, Temple Sinai of Roslyn Heights, Port Jewish Center, New Hyde Park Jewish Center, and

## On The Road With Long Island Cares

Contributing Reporter Walter Stern

Spend a day on the road with Timothy O'Connell and you'll understand why Long Island Cares is a vital lifeline to those in need in our area. Jovial and unflappable, 43-year-old O'Connell likes to talk about the importance of getting shipments of food to the 578 agencies where the hungry turn for the square meals they can't afford on their incomes or while they are down on their luck. He is one of three drivers who navigate refrigerated trucks loaded with pallets of dry,

*One of the Food Drive stops that Tim O'Connell made that day. Seen here with fellow LIC staffer Sonia Perez at the Chapin Rainbow Stage in Huntington.*



*cont. on page 2*

# We're Not Just Food...

Since the beginning, food donations and food drives have been a mainstay of Long Island Cares. We are also the recipient of many other kinds of donations that help strengthen Long Island Cares' mission to help families achieve self-sufficiency. Clothing, household items, toiletries and school supplies are extremely important to our programs aimed at encouraging individuals to become self-sufficient, independent and food self-reliant. Most of the families who visit our 578 member agencies cannot afford what are considered basic necessities; food, rent, utilities and medical expenses. New school clothes, school supplies, clothing for work or a job interview are out of the question. Birthdays and holi-

days go by without presents.

It never ceases to amaze us how individuals, organizations, businesses and corporations all find innovative ways to purchase and/or collect these much needed items. As a result, hundreds of children are able to start the school year with more confidence, and men and women across Nassau and Suffolk Counties have been able to secure employment and regain their self-esteem. For them, these donations have meant brighter holidays, decreased stress and depression and have given them hope.

If you or your organization would like to donate new items for our outreach programs, please contact the Development Office at (631) 582-3663.

## Below are A Few Of the Innovative Ways Folks Have Found to Support our Outreach Programs:

**Sharon Healey** donated \$1,000 from a family golf tournament to purchase holiday gifts for single mothers and children in our New Paths to Achievement Program; **Noel Hauser**, a Social Studies teacher from Massapequa coordinated an *End-Of-Year Locker Clean Out* and donated over 500 pounds of shoes and clothing for member agencies; **Dee Dee Finlayson**, founder of the Business Boutique in Huntington donated toys and books for the children and gift certificates for the mothers in New Paths to Achievement; **Rasheea Jones** and **Kendra Beverly** of Girl Scout Troop #3058 who organized a school supply drive as part of their Silver Award Project; and **Temple Beth-El of Great Neck** collected clothing, toiletries and school supplies on their annual Mitzvah Day!

## On the Road... *continued from page 1*

canned and frozen foods from Long Island Care's warehouse to soup kitchens, emergency pantries and homeless shelters in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

At first the process is business-like. It begins when Long Island Cares sends menus of available foodstuffs to the agencies, which then call or fax in their requests for supplies. Shipments are filled and then assembled on skids sealed with shrink-wrap, ready to roll. Before they are loaded onto Tim's truck, Frank Alfino, the warehouse manager, coordinates the day's route to make certain that the pallets are loaded properly according to the delivery schedule.

That's the mechanical side of it. The human side emerges during delivery to the agencies. The first stop on my day on the road with Long Island Cares was the Miracle Christian Center on Fulton Avenue

in Hempstead, with pastors Craig and Phyllis Young and assistant pastor Dr. David Gates. Upon arrival, we found a summer vacation bible school session in progress. This is just one of many activities at the center. Deacon Darryl Smith's concern of the moment was the food pantry, which serves approximately 65 families in the immediate area.

"They come here for supplies on the second Wednesday of each month, referred to us by the Nassau County Department of Social Services," Deacon Smith explains. "They know the routine, and we try to furnish them with the foods they prefer because we know that, with many of them unemployed, dinner treats are scarce."

On a larger scale was St. Brigid's R.C. Church in Westbury. Julie Knight, a volunteer, explains that this pantry serves more



than 300 families a month, five days a week. The food pantry is under the auspices of the Parish Outreach program and is staffed by parishioners and their friends.

The rules of this pantry are flexible. Ordinarily, a client family can "shop" there {no money exchanged, of course} once every two weeks. Each client family is represented by a file card, recording their visits. If the family runs into trouble between visits, Ms. Knight explains, arrangements can be made for additional supplies.

One of the most engaging agencies is the Edna Moran INN on Main Street in Hempstead, a facility named after the mother of its founder. It's a cozy residence with a capacity for 13 homeless families, or about 50 children and adults, who can call it home for longer or shorter stays. Their delivery from Long Island Cares is the main source of food supplies, prepared in a spotless kitchen by the residents themselves on a rotating basis.

As I rode with Tim, I learned that at many of the shelters and residences, Long Island Cares offers workshops for residents to learn vocational skills. "Part of our mission is to instill self-esteem in families through workshops and prepare them for more productive careers. Long Island Cares not only wants to feed the hungry on Long Island, they want to help give these people their lives back."

Lillian Lee is the director of the Bethany Pantry on Prospect Avenue in Westbury. Sponsored by the Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church, the pantry serves 120 persons, including 30 children.

Not far away, on Union Avenue in

*cont. on page 3*

## Long Island Cares INC



(631) 582-FOOD (3663)  
Facsimile: (631) 273-2184  
WEB site: www.licares.org

Founder  
**Harry Chapin**

Executive Director  
**Lynn Needelman**

REGIONAL FOOD BANK  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
PROGRAMS

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# Tea Time

On Monday, May 20, 2002, golf enthusiasts teed off in support of Long Island Cares 6th Annual Golf Classic. We cannot express how grateful the Golf Committee is for your participation or financial contribution to the success of the Golf Classic. Your donations and efforts provided much needed support. The day was a little chilly but the sun was still shining. A special thanks to all who helped to make this such a successful event!



**WINNERS:** WBAB disk jockeys JP Parisi (left) and Roger Luce (right) flank Charlie and Tina Leo, of Leo Electric in Southhampton, winners of the on-air auction to play in a foursome with the radio personalities and honorees at the Long Island Cares' Sixth Annual Golf Classic held at Indian Hills Country Club.

## CO-CHAIRMEN

Richard Romano  
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## HONOREES

Roger Luce & John Parise  
WBAB Radio Personalities  
Roger & "JP"  
Morning Show Hosts

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**BROTHERS FOR A CAUSE:** Four Long Island brothers made up a foursome at the Long Island Cares' Golf Outing. They are (from left to right) Tom Lennon, of Pine Barrens Printing, Long Island Cares board member Jim Lennon of Brenner Lennon Productions; Mike Lennon of Pine Barrens Printing, and Robert Lennon, of Morgan Stanley.



**HONORING OUR FRIENDS:** WBAB disk jockeys Roger Luce (left) and "JP" Parise, (right) on air personalities, were honorees at Long Island Cares's Sixth Annual Golf Classic. At the event, Long Island Cares' Executive Director, Lynn Needelman and Don A. Corrao, president of the board, present them with trophies commemorating the honor.

## On the Road... continued from page 2

Westbury, is Holy Trinity Baptist Church, where Deacon Zack Crews and his wife, Deaconess Gina Crews, supervise a pantry that serves anywhere up to 43 families. They select available foodstuffs in accordance with family size and available supplies, with six or seven church volunteers directing the traffic.

Throughout his long day's route, O'Connell always patiently unloaded the pallets and took time to make small talk

with the volunteers. He reflected on his own views of the poverty that stalks Long Island, remarking that his own youth in Bay Shore was far sunnier than many of the stories he sees. Still he said, people just run into bad luck. "It could be any one of us on those lines."

And with today's last stop behind him, Tim headed back to the Long Island Care's warehouse, ready for tomorrow and another day on the road.

## Food Drive List:

### ■ ONE TON CLUB

Phillip and Mary DiGiovanni  
William Henry

### ■ SCHOOL TOOLS

JFK Middle School  
Rasheea Jones - Girl Scout Silver Award Project  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Roslyn Middle School

### ■ 5000+ lbs.

Temple Sinai

### ■ 1000+ lbs.

Cow Harbor 10K Race Committee  
Hillside Elementary School  
NYPIRG, Nassau Community College  
St. Joseph's Parish, Garden City  
Shoreham Wading River High School  
Temple Beth El

### ■ 500+ lbs.

First Data Corporation  
Newsday, Public Affairs Department  
St. Joseph's Parish Outreach - Garden City  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington,  
Renaissance Festival  
United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Region 7,  
Women's Network  
VYTRA  
World Courier, Inc.

### ■ Other Food Drives:

ASPIRE  
Arrowhead Elementary School  
BOCES Western Suffolk  
Brookhaven National Lab - 4 mile Run  
Kendra Beverly - Girl Scout Silver Award Project  
Community Bank, Westbury

C.W. Post, Dept. Of Nutrition  
Dix Hills Jewish Center  
Early Childhood Club Suffolk Community College  
Forest Avenue Elementary School's Fifth Grade Class  
Sally Fritz  
H. Frank Carey High School  
Huntington Arts Council-Summer Arts Program  
Huntington Bicycle Club  
Huntington YMCA  
Elaine Iandoli  
Indian Hollow Primary School  
Jackson Elementary School  
John Street School  
Long Island Paegan Community, Arcadia's Children  
Marshall Chiropractic  
Massapequa High School  
Ann McMahon  
Milton Olive Middle School-Wyandanch Comet  
Program  
Alyssa Minkin  
Nutrition Services, University Hospital at  
Stony Brook  
New Hyde Park Jewish Center  
Ralphine O'Rourke  
Port Washington Jewish Center  
Port Washington Soccer Club  
Quick Stop - Hicksville  
Service Unit #5 Girl Scouts - Huntington Harbors.  
Suffolk County Parks  
Suffolk County Republican Committee  
SUNY Farmingdale, Student Nurses Association  
SUNY College at Old Westbury  
Sunquam Elementary School - Fifth Grade Students  
Temple Beth-El, Great Neck  
Wilson Technical School - Alternative High School  
Wyandanch Comet Program

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## WANTED: 5,000 TURKEYS!!

It is never too early to start thinking about Long Island Cares' need for Thanksgiving turkeys. From Labor Day to Thanksgiving Day, there are only 79 days to gather all the turkeys we need for our agencies and the hungry families they serve.

Why do we need so many turkeys? Food pantries prepare thousands of emergency food baskets for their clients and soup kitchens across the Island serve the poor and the homeless hot, nutritious turkey dinners. Turkeys are also needed at senior citizen nutrition sites; shelters for victims of domestic violence; homeless shelters; community residences; day care centers and other feeding programs.

In the year since the September 11, 2001 attacks, local food pantries and soup kitchens have seen dramatic increases in the number of people served. Many people laid off from jobs in the aerospace or travel industries have not been able to find employment or they are working at much lower salaries. Many families lost their head of household.

If you wish to sponsor a turkey drive, donate turkeys or gift certificates to purchase turkeys, please call (631) 582-FOOD(3663) speak to the Development/Fundraising Office.

**FOR TURKEY UPDATES, VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE: [www.licares.org](http://www.licares.org)**

## Inside Issues *continued from page 1*

that continues to prove that participation does make a difference. We have made great strides in the past 22 years. As we meet this challenge of moving to a new facility in the Hauppauge Industrial Park, we continue to acknowledge Harry's vision of how life should be lived. We are proud to carry on Harry's legacy of preventing hunger whenever possible and alleviating hunger whenever present. In his honor, our new home will be named **The Harry Chapin Food Bank**.

We have met each challenge with your help. To list all of you would be impossible,

but most importantly, you were there. Collecting food, collecting funds, organizing an event, volunteering and reaching out to your neighbors in need.

Unfortunately, hunger on Long Island continues to grow. No one knows what the next 22 years will hold. One thing, however, is certain; with your generosity of spirit, Long Island Cares will keep Harry's mission alive.

In this issue of Grassroots we would like to salute Long Island Cares' family of friends. Our newsletter reflects the theme "The Power of One".

# Thank You...



Lynn Needelman, Executive Director of Long Island Cares accepts a check in the amount of \$10,000 from Robert DeRosa, President of the Plainview Stake, and Robin Smith, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint's.



Little People "pack a punch": Cub Scout Pack 168 presents a check in the amount of \$500, proceeds raised from a bake sale in conjunction with a food drive for Long Island Cares. (Left to Right) Mrs. Susan Esswein, Michael Esswein, Banden Amberger and Mrs. Celeste Amberger.



USI Insurance Services Answered the Call: 19 Associates from USI Insurance Services from Westbury, Long Island and New York City, New York volunteered a days work here at the food bank. Throughout the day USI Associates sorted and packaged donated school supplies. Pictured here, at days end with staff members, a happy group of volunteers.



Stop, Shop And Donate: Coleen Meares (left), manager of corporate affairs for Stop and Shop Supermarkets, presents a check for \$12,000 to Lynn Needelman, Executive Director of Long Island Cares. The money was raised at Stop and Shop stores in Nassau and Suffolk Counties during the stores' Food For Friends' campaign. Thank you Stop and Shop!



Grant Supports Community Program Providing School Supplies: Long Island Cares is awarded a check by Catholic Health Services of Long Island's Bishop John R. McGann Mission of Caring Fund in support of the School Tools Program. Pictured at the Awards Ceremony are (1 to r): Ronald R. Aldrich, President and Ceo of Catholic Health Services of Long Island; Kathy Sullivan from Long Island Cares and Sandra Mahoney, Vice President of Network Development for Catholic Health Services and a past recipient of the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award.



Learn By Doing: Roslyn Middle School Students gather together after participating in Hunger 101: To Walk in the Shoes of a Person in Need at the Food Bank.



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# Bulletin Board

**★CHECK-OUT HUNGER**

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**★WBAB FOOD DRIVE (102.3)**

Saturday, November 16. *FOOD FOR ALL!* Join us as we partner with **WBAB** and **Jillians** for the food drive of the century! Sponsored and supported by WBAB and Jillians, 261 Airport Plaza Blvd., Farmingdale, NY . Come join WBAB, Jillians and Long Island Cares and make a difference. Mark your calendars now! Organize a collection of non-perishable food and come on down. Help us help others. See you at Jillians between the hours of 7:00am to midnight. Volunteers needed on site during food drive. Please call for more information (631) 582-FOOD (3663)

**★GRAND OPENING RECEPTION**

Tuesday November 26, 2002. 3:00pm - 5:00pm Reception. 3:00pm - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. 4:00pm - Remarks The Harry Chapin Food Bank, 10 Davids Drive, Hauppauge, NY.

## Thanks to our Letter Carriers

The annual National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive was held the May 11, the Saturday before Mother's Day. In Nassau and Suffolk counties, over one million pounds of canned and dry foods were collected in just one day by NALC Branch 6000. Because of the generosity of your neighbors and friends, and the collection of this food by your local letter carriers, many food pantries and soup kitchens as well as residential programs were able to keep food on their shelves during the summer months. Long Island Cares shares in the distribution of this food with two other agencies. This year we were able to distribute 280,000 pounds of food to our 500+ member agencies.

Because our area was one of the top collecting branches (in their category) , Campbell Soup Company, a supporter of the NALC food drive nationwide, has added a special donation of 1,000 cans of Campbells Soup to be shared by Long Island Cares and two other agencies for distribution.

## We Moved!

**Long Island Cares, Inc.**  
 The Harry Chapin Food Bank  
 10 Davids Drive, Hauppauge, NY 11788  
 Telephone: 631-582-FOOD (3663)  
 FAX 631-273-2184  
 www.licares.org

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