

## Inside Issues



Lynn Needelman, Long Island Cares Executive Director

Twenty years have passed since that tragic afternoon when the world lost Harry Chapin, way too soon. We are all here on earth for a finite period of time, and we are all judged by what we do with that time. Harry's passion for life and

what he accomplished lives on, not only in the music he gave to us, but also through the organizations he created, first and foremost Long Island Cares.

*There will be a celebration of Harry's music on Sunday, October 14th at 8:00 pm at the IMAC Theater in Huntington, featuring Tom Chapin & Friends, The Steve Chapin Band and Jen Chapin. For tickets, call 631-549-2787. Proceeds from this concert will help secure a new home for Long Island Cares.*

Harry was a people person. His philosophy was to motivate people, to give back to society, not just take from it. Here are a few excerpts from a speech Harry gave in 1977, at the Nassau-Suffolk Volunteer Conference that exemplify his vision:

"Volunteerism is a right, and we volunteers are carrying out the heritage of this country. I, therefore, challenge the people here not to be passive, or just pat ourselves on the back and say what nice people we are rather than saying how wonderful we are, the whole job is to get more people to go out and do it-not only because volunteering is rewarding, but **because it is our responsibility.**

We have seen so many people from the middle class on up, in our society, basically end up lost because they have put all their stake in life into money, and they have seen

*cont. on page 4*

## Spotlight on Agencies

Long Island's need to assist the impoverished is palpably increasing. No, it's not the slowdown in industrial growth. Nor dwindling in the number of financially comfortable families in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Rather, it is a combination of the growth of marginal workers as a factor in Long Island demographics and the cumulative effect of welfare reform. And their impact is being reported by the agencies that provide food and other assistance to those in need as they strive to keep up with the demand for their services.

Two agencies, both served by Long Island Cares, tell somewhat the same story. Mary Ann Bell, who heads the **HGP Greater Port Jefferson Food Pantry**, reports that the facility now serves some 600 families that come to the pantry at various times during the month. And Joan Psotto reports that **St. Brigid's Outreach Ministry**, a part of Long Island's largest Roman Catholic parish, provides for upward of 250 families, accounting for some 400 visits during an average month.

While these two operations are somewhat different in structure, they encounter

very similar histories among those to whom they provide food. Both observe that the increase in need for food and other help comes in large part from foreign workers, of which Port Jefferson has a dense concentration. The same is true of New Cassel, which lies within St. Brigid's boundaries. Unemployment per se is not the crux of the problem. Many of these hard-working people earn little more than minimum wage and send much of their earnings to their families in Central America and Caribbean countries, savaged by hurricanes and floods.

This is why demand for emergency food has a seasonal factor. During the summer, work for the unskilled employed by contractors and landscapers, for instance, is more plentiful. In the winter, their income diminishes and they become more dependent, given the fact that they remit money to their families back home.

A second cause of the increase in demand for food has been triggered by welfare reform, the federal and state laws that limit the amount of time dependents can remain on welfare before they are forced to

*cont. on page 3*



*The Chapin Rainbow Stage in Heckscher Park, site of the Huntington Summer Arts Festival's free performances, was re-dedicated in honor of singer/songwriter and humanitarian Harry Chapin, on Tuesday, July 17, 2001. Harry Chapin's widow Sandy Chapin (second from left) and son Josh Chapin (far left) are joined by Huntington Supervisor Frank P. Petrone (third from left); Long Island Cares Executive Director Lynn Needelman (second from right); Fleet Bank's Director of Community Relations Elena Perez (far right); on the steps of the Chapin Rainbow Stage in Heckscher Park.*



*Having a wonderful time, (left to right) Bob Murray, Co-Chair of the outing and Board Member of Long Island Cares, Tom Murray, President, Long Island Cares, Jim Lennon, of Brenner Lenno Photo Production, honoree and Lynn Needelman, Executive Director, Long Island Cares*



*Jim Lennon, of Brenner Lennon Photo Production and guest of honor at Long Island Cares' 5th Annual Golf Classic accepts his formal recognition from Long Island Cares.*

# Tee Time



On Monday, May 21, 2001, golf enthusiasts teed off in support of Long Island Cares 5th 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 rain held off! A special thanks to all who helped to make this such a successful event !

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## Long Island



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(631) 435-1936  
Facsimile: (631) 273-2184  
WEB site: [www.licares.org](http://www.licares.org)

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**Harry Chapin**

Executive Director  
**Lynn Needelman**

**REGIONAL FOOD BANK**  
**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

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# • SHOPRITE IS ALRIGHT! •

ShopRite Partners in Caring Program Year 2 continues to make a difference in our community!

ShopRite, championing the hunger cause, has made a commitment to our hungry brothers and sisters here on Long Island. ShopRite Partners in Caring is an ongoing program that was created by ShopRite/Wakefern to fight hunger in our communities. The program is committed to helping feed and meet the nutritional needs of families and the elderly who may otherwise go without. Shoprite's goal is to focus attention on the hunger problem by involving its Associates and Customers in the battle against hunger in the Shoprite communities.

Over 38 member agencies of Long Island Cares have the opportunity to benefit and participate in this program. Local ShopRite stores select qualified organizations in the neighborhoods they serve. This selection process underlies one of the program's major tenets: "What's raised here stays here." A real connection is made between the agencies, Long Island Cares and ShopRite. ShopRite Associates have the opportunity to

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## "Two Agencies" *continued from page 1*

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go to work. This presents an immediate problem, notably for single mothers who must find jobs for which they are often unqualified due to lack of skills. And while Long Island Cares and some of its agencies have developed programs to train these women for gainful employment, functioning as both mother and bread winner is a tough row to hoe. Even with the aid of food stamps, budgets for food and shelter are strained, especially since low-cost housing on Long Island is hard to find.

Add to this dilemma two additional handicaps. Many needy people are intimidated by the process of applying for food stamps, though help is available at many agencies. Moreover, undocumented aliens are not eligible for food stamps, though their children may be if they were born in the United States. But the combination heightens the demand for food assistance.

Despite their similarities, the two agencies have different backgrounds. The Port Jefferson facility had its origin at the State University of Stony Brook, where Ms. Bell is an undergraduate advisor in the Political Science Department. It began with the students' Holiday Gift Program, hence the name HGP food pantry. With a federal grant from the Americorps program, her forces remodeled a 445 square foot shed, like a mini-store, a project supported by a gift from Sanjay Kumar, CEO of Computer Associates.

Students themselves have played a role in the drive to aid the needy. Under Ms. Bell's guidance, they initiated the Stuff-a-Bus program. Periodically, they parked a bus in front of a Waldbaum's supermarket and urged shoppers to buy extra food and bring it to the bus. This eventually led to the establishment of a food pantry where simple household needs, such as diapers and toilet paper, are provided as well. These are the kinds of needs many people don't often think about when it comes to helping the hungry. Baby food is another.

Ms. Psotto relates a somewhat different history. St. Brigid's has always helped the needy in a parish that encompasses both families in financial comfort and those in need. Its Outreach Ministry provides a variety of social services, of which the food pantry is just one. Indeed, they have converted the pantry into what they call a "shopping" pantry. The distinction is that in an ordinary emergency pantry, food supplies are selected and packaged for each client. Under the "shopping" concept, clients can select foods that satisfy a variety of tastes expressed by their families.

volunteer at the recipient agencies.

In Year 2, ShopRite provided \$2 million to over 980 charities (in the five state operating region that includes New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Connecticut) in support through the program!

ShopRite/Wakefern has other exciting things that were developed this past year. Wakefern recently commissioned a photogra-



*Penates, Inc. of Bayshore provides emergency and supportive permanent housing for homeless families. The Penates program supplies client services to families in need with the skills necessary to maintain themselves in permanent housing. Pictured here are families enjoying a party.*



*A fully stocked food pantry at Calvary Chapel of Lake Ronkonkoma. Serving an average of 100-175 people per week.*

pher to document hunger to educate the community regarding the hunger issue. This project resulted in a documentary called "Hunger Next Door". This documentary speaks strongly of our great need to erase hunger and provide food for those less fortunate.

Also, the Team Cheerios contest was completed. The winning Shoprite Partners in Caring reps and 60 of their outstanding associates have found themselves on a box of Cheerios celebrating the Shoprite Partners in Caring story. They were selected for their outstanding support of the ShopRite in Caring program.

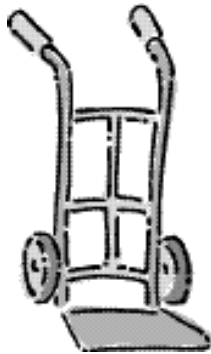
We recognize the commitment involved and applaud their efforts to make a difference and improve the lives of those in need. As year 2 of ShopRite Partners in Caring comes to a close, this incredible work done by the food banks, agencies, and Shoprite employees can be recognized as a real dedication to fighting this very real, but hidden problem. ShopRite Partners in Caring program's ultimate goal is to focus attention on the hunger problem in local communities and help to be part of the solution in the battle against hunger! Year 3 planning has already begun! Thank you Shoprite.

## JOB TRAINING PROGRAM:

# At-Risk Youth and Adults

The Job Training Program, begun in the fall of 1998 with a grant from the Roslyn Savings Foundation, was developed to teach at-risk youth the fundamentals of warehousing, utilizing the extensive resources of the Long Island Cares food bank. Incorporating vocational skills training, the program offers at-risk high school students help in developing job skills and exposure to a new career opportunity. Brentwood, Huntington, North Babylon, and Walt Whitman High Schools have all participated in the program, and students from Western Suffolk BOCES in Huntington recently graduated from the six week program. The youth were enthusiastic about the workings of the warehouse, curious about where all the food comes from, and shocked at the overwhelming need for it on Long Island.

After participating in the Job Training Program in April of 2000, and moved by the stories of families and children without enough to eat right here on Long Island, students from Walt Whitman High School in South Huntington got together and bought large boxes of non-perishable food to donate to Long Island Cares, "Long Island Cares was good enough to help us, so we wanted to help somebody else", they stated. These students never imagined that others like themselves were doing without meals, going to bed hungry, and sometimes working at jobs after school until midnight



in order to help their families buy food.

In the year 2000, the Job Training Program expanded its target population beyond the at-risk youth to include adults at-risk who were interested in receiving training or seeking employment opportunities in a new field. Men and women involved in programs at

Phoenix House, Pilgrim State Outpatient Division, and MercyHaven in Islip Terrace participated in the program, learning about the fundamentals of warehousing, filling out job applications and completing resumes. Individuals who were job-ready were given referrals to warehouses that were currently hiring. In addition, several of the participants were taken to The Employment Center in Hauppauge to become familiar with the numerous services available there. The adult participants, like the youth, were impressed with the magnitude of the food bank. They were particularly interested in the variety of positions that exist at Long Island Cares, and several expressed interest in obtaining jobs in the field of warehousing.

The Job Training Program represents one more way that Long Island Cares helps those struggling to move forward in their lives. Learning a new field, increasing wages, and advancing towards self-sufficiency are some of the outcomes of a training program that targets both at-risk youth and adults.

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## Inside Issues continued from page 1

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how shallow it is.

I do not believe it is a cut-and-dried issue. However, if certain forces are creating hunger and all that we are doing is feeding hungry people, without treating the causes of that hunger, we are being silly and we are not taking our time and effort seriously. All we are doing is putting a Band-Aid on a bad situation.

As Bob Dylan said, 'He who is not busy being born is busy dying.' Those of us who are playing ostriches are in fact saying that we don't give a damn. What we are saying, then, to our kids is that all we are doing is trying to hold on until our old age, and if

the world should fall apart, that's fine because we have lived our lives. I hate to think that this is what we are saying to the people we have brought into the world.

We all have the potential to move the world-and the world is ready to be moved."

Although Harry is gone, his vision of how life should be lived is as relevant today, if not more so, than it was when he was alive. The problems of hunger here on Long Island continue to grow, and Long Island Cares continues to find new ways to address the root causes of hunger. Live life and be a positive force, don't just pass through it, is a message we all should heed.

### QUESTION:

*What do old cars and Long Island Cares have in common?*

### ANSWER:

*Travelers Roadside Assistance*

You can flip through the pages of your local pennysaver or town shopper to consistently find Travelers Roadside Assistance ads requesting the donations of cars, trucks and Rv's.( Running or not) to "Help Feed Long Island's Hungry". Through their efforts this program provides much needed funds for our food bank on a monthly basis.

How does it work? Travelers Roadside Assistance (TRA) advertises for donation vehicles. TRA works directly with the donor. All record keeping and maintenance of the transaction is maintained by the company. Other related administrative costs including handling clients calls to donate vehicles, pick up, storage and sale of vehicle, are the responsibility of TRA. Long Island Cares receives a monthly statement along with a donation, which is a percentage of the gross proceeds of selling the vehicle and parts.

A happy car donor, Marie Higgins, of Northport, NY, had high praises for this program. She said, "Absolutely terrific, not only did my donation of my old car prove effortless, but it served such a wonderful purpose." The customers of this program consistently concur, "We have high praise for a program that provides a great opportunity to generate funds to those in our community less fortunate."

We applaud Curtis Rasmussen, President of Travelers Roadside Assistance and his staff for efforts on behalf of the hungry here on Long Island. Thank you for making a difference!

An advertisement for Long Island Cares. At the top, it says "DONATE Cars, Trucks, Rv's" with "(Running or Not)" in smaller text below it. Below that is the slogan "Help Feed Long Island's Hungry". A list of benefits includes: "Fast, Free Towing", "IRS Recognized Org.", and "Maximum Allowable Deduction". It also states "Serving L.I. for over 20 years" and "LONG ISLAND CARES Regional Food Bank Network". The phone number "1-877-872-2127" is prominently displayed, with "(Toll Free)" in smaller text to the right. The website "www.ljcares.org" is at the bottom. There is a small image of a car on the right side of the ad.

*Remember... need to get rid of an old car, do it with a purpose in mind.*

## Food Drive List:

### ■ SCHOOL TOOLS DRIVE

AP Willits Elementary School/Syosset  
Cablevision  
EAC Hempstead  
Girl Scouts of Suffolk County  
West End School

### ■ 5000+ lbs.

Hauppauge Industrial Association

### ■ 1000+ lbs.

Hillside Elementary School  
Huntington Arts Council  
St. Joseph's Parish, Garden City  
West Hempstead/Franklin Square Girl  
Scouts  
United Food & Commercial Workers  
Union, Region 1, Women's Network

### ■ 500+ lbs.

Kieran Mock  
Long Island Junior Soccer Association  
Long Island Paegan Community  
Marge Anderson Jones  
Parish of the Holy Cross  
Wisdom Lane Middle School/St. Bernard  
School

### ■ Other Food drives:

Abbey Lane School  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Becht  
Brook Avenue School  
Brookhaven National Lab  
Brownie Troop #45  
C/BAR-Douglas College, Stony Brook  
Cub Scouts Pack 8/East Williston  
Debbie Ramonetti  
DSA Community Publishing  
Gentle Earth  
Girl Scout Troop #608/Babylon  
Debbie Golden  
IKEA  
Iron Maidens Rolling Thunder Cycles  
Island Hills Chorus  
IMA  
Indian Hollow Primary School  
James E. Boyd Intermediate School  
Jennifer Green  
Jonathan Cooper's Reelection Office  
Cindy Koppesch  
Susan Kottler  
Lake Grove Apartments  
Elisa Minkin  
MSC, Associates of  
New Hyde Park Jewish Center  
Smithtown Hadassah  
Southside High School Senior Class  
Spellman High Voltage Corporation  
St. William of the Abbott-Confirmation  
Class  
Suffolk County Community College  
Suffolk County Parks  
Suffolk County Republican Committee  
Telephone Pioneers, Paumanok Chapter  
Temple Beth El  
TNT  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at  
Stony Brook  
Vytra Health Plans  
Waldbaums Challenge Finals  
Western BOCES/Wilson Tech

# FOOD DRIVES

Long Island Cares was the recipient of product from three large food drives during the months of May, June and July. May 12th was the annual **National Association of Letter Carrier's (NALC)** food drive. In cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service, your letter carriers once again collected food from your friends and neighbors. This year's drive netted more than 1.2 million pounds of food. Long Island Cares shared this bounty with three other organizations. Consequently, Long Island Cares was able to distribute 223 thousand pounds of food to our needy.

The **Long Island Junior Soccer Association (LIJSA)/ Waldbaum** tournament was held over Father's Day weekend at the Mitchell Field Sports Complex, Uniondale. Joining the LIJSA, the New York Dragons Arena Football League team hosted a food drive on Saturday at the Nassau County Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The Long Island Power, of the Women's Professional Soccer League, also planned to host a food drive on Sunday evening. You may recall that this weekend was a real "washout" due to heavy rains, and hence the Sunday afternoon tournament as well as the LI Power game was canceled. Because of the lower than anticipated turnout, several of the soccer clubs sent us cash donations totaling \$1,000.

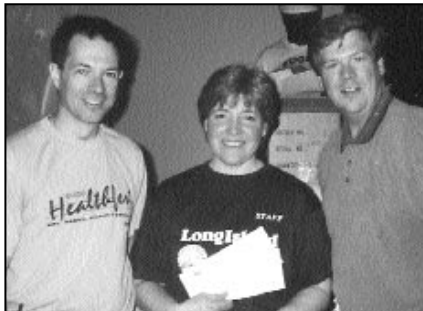
The **Hauppauge Industrial Association (HIA)** has conducted their annual food drive. This year 43 companies participated at 52 different sites! Their cooperation with Long Island Cares' staff was outstanding, and the total amount of food collected was **5,981 lbs.**

If you, or any organization you are associated with, would care to conduct a food drive, please call (631) 435-0450, extension 3026, contact Joe Laino, our Product Donations Manager for details.

## On Your Mark, Get Set Go!



*Long Island Runners celebrated a beautiful spring morning at Hechscher State Park on Saturday, April 28 by taking part in the Vytra Health Plans Human Race, a five kilometer run sponsored by Vytra Health Plans to benefit Long Island Cares. With Vytra Health Plans underwriting the full cost of the event, every penny raised via entry fees was given to the food bank. Long Island Cares was presented with a check. Pictured above, (left to right) Greater Long Island Running Club, President, Mike Polansky, Lynn Needelman, Executive Director, Long Island Cares and Tom McAteer, President & CEO, Vytra Health Care.*



*All smiles at the Earth Day 4 Mile Run Awards Ceremony, Sunday, April 29 are (L to R) Race Director Peter Pohlot of Brookhaven Labs, Kathy Sullivan of Long Island Cares, and Phil Maroney of KeySpan. Earth Day was a Keyspan Grand Prix Race, and Phil was on hand to present a check to Long Island Cares.*

## Local Organization Fundraiser Helps Fight Hunger

## 2nd Annual "FEED THE HUNGRY" Golf Outing

Middle Island Country Club  
Monday, September 17, 2001

This event is sponsored by the New York 5th District Knights of Columbus. "Last year proceeds provided Long Island Cares the much needed funds to purchase food, which was distributed to those in need," said Ray Berry, District Deputy, N.Y. 5th District Knights of Columbus. "With your support we can double our contribution of last year," said Skip Herr, co-chair of the event. The 5th District Knights have adopted Long Island Cares as a worthy beneficiary because Long Island Cares' goal and mission are in keeping with Kof C's to "help thy neighbor". The Knights are looking forward to another successful and fun event. Join them for a great day of golf, donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole! Call them directly at (631) 981-5037.

# LONG ISLAND CARES

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## Bulletin Board:

### ★CHECK-OUT HUNGER

September – December 2001

To volunteer call (631) 435-1489.

### ★LONG ISLAND FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday October 6th & Sunday October 7th

Heckscher Park, Huntington

Long Island Cares will have a booth both days and will be providing information about Long Island Cares' programs. Please call (631) 435-1489 if you are interested in helping out either day.

### ★HARRY CHAPIN: A CELEBRATION IN SONG

Featuring : Tom Chapin & Friends, The Steve Chapin Band, and Jen Chapin

Sunday, October 14th, 7 P.M. • IMAC Theater, Huntington, NY

Tickets : 631-549-2787, \$100 (includes pre-concert dinner at Sandy Chapin's home), \$60 & \$40. Be part of the volunteer team, call (631) 435-1489

### ★13TH ANNUAL SHARE-A-MEAL DAY

Thursday, October 18, 2001

For 13 years, Long Island Cares in cooperation with The Interfaith Nutrition Network (The INN) has worked with local restaurants to end hunger on Long Island. On October 18th, participating restaurants will donate 10% of the days proceeds. Volunteers are needed to:

- Work with development office and help solicit old and new

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

### SEPT. – DEC. 2001 "CHECK-OUT HUNGER" CAMPAIGN

Held in more than 150 stores throughout Nassau & Suffolk Counties.

Long Island Cares' "Check-Out Hunger" campaign is a simple and easy way for the community to get involved and make a donation to assist the hungry. Coupons are displayed at local participating food stores (Food Emporium, King Kullen, Kings, Pathmark, ShopRite, Waldbaum's and Wild By Nature), and customers are asked to make a \$1, \$2, or \$5 contribution.

#### Volunteers are needed to:

- Work on a team to help set-up print materials in stores.
- Or, select a store of your own (near your home or place of business), and offer to set-up and maintain supplies during the course of the campaign.

Contact Ed or Kathy at (631) 435-1489

restaurants via phone calls, and help prepare print materials for distribution.

- If you can't volunteer, be sure to patronize one of the participating restaurants! For more information, (631) 435-1489.

### ★THE 3RD ANNUAL "from our hearts" BLACK TIE GALA AND FUND RAISER HONORING BOOMER ESIASON

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, NY

Long Island Cares is one of this year's beneficiaries. For tickets call (516) 872-3300, ext. 235.

### ★11th ANNUAL HARRY CHAPIN HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER • Thursday, November 29, 2001

Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, NY

The year marks the 11th Anniversary of the Humanitarian Awards Dinner. Tickets are \$150 per person. Several levels of participation are available.

#### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

*Become a Volunteer*

*Become a Gala Sponsor*

*Purchase a Place on the Scroll of Honor*

*Purchase Tickets to Attend*

*Donate a Product for Silent Auction or Grand Prize Raffles*

*Help Promote Our Event Through Your Company Newsletter or Mailings*

*Promote Awareness for LONG ISLAND CARES at Your Place of Business*

*Most of all, Come Enjoy Yourself on November 29, 2001!*

For further information and to reserve your tickets, please contact the Development Office (631) 435-1489.

**Yes!** I would like to support your work and receive your newsletter.



Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of

\$25  \$50  \$100  One-Ton Club (\$280)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed.

Please charge my      

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Long Island Cares, Inc. Send to:  
Long Island Cares, Inc., PO Box 1330, Brentwood, NY 11717. Thank you.