

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



LONG ISLAND CARES, INC./THE HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK

Striving to Put an End to Hunger on Long Island

Every Sunday, Newsday presents another Community Champions organization — groups that reach out to assist fellow Long Islanders.

How To Reach Us:

Long Island Cares, Inc./The Harry Chapin Food Bank
10 Davids Drive
Hauppauge, NY 11788
631-582-FOOD
www.licares.org

If you know a group worthy of being a Community Champion, make your nomination on:

Newsday.com

or at Bethpage Federal Credit Union Branches

Newsday's Community Champions are selected by the following committee of distinguished Long Islanders: **Linda M. Army**, Vice President Business Development, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; **Lance W. Elder**, President and Chief Executive Officer, EAC, Inc.; **Celeste Hernandez**, Executive Director, L.I. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; **Jean Kelly**, Executive Director, Interfaith Nutrition Network; **Linda Landsman**, Program Director, Children & Families, Rauch Foundation; **Lynn Needelman**, Executive Director, Long Island CARES; **Eileen A. Nolan**, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Database, Vytra Health Plans; **John T. O'Connell**, President/CEO, Health and Welfare Council of LI; **David M. Okorn**, VP Corporate Relations, National Center for Disability Services; **Diana O'Neill**, Executive Director, Long Island Volunteer Center; **Andrew Rothstein**, Director of Marketing Programs, Newsday; **Theresa Sanders**, President, CEO, Urban League Long Island

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"America stands for two things: aiding and abetting the quest of every human being for human rights, human dignity and human needs and proving that individuals can make a difference."

That was the philosophy of Harry Chapin, the late singer and activist who made immeasurable contributions to better the lives of others throughout his lifetime. Donating half the proceeds of his performances — more than half a million dollars every year — and his passionate crusade against hunger are among the many ways he gave of himself so generously. Today, Chapin's legacy lives on in the nonprofit organization he founded in 1980 to address hunger on Long Island.

"Long Island Cares is devoted to preventing hunger whenever possible and alleviating hunger wherever present," says Executive Director Lynn Needelman. "Our mission is to provide emergency food assistance where and when needed; provide tools and education to help families achieve self-sufficiency; and raise awareness and educate the general public about the causes and consequences of hunger on Long Island."

Every year, Long Island Cares distributes 5 million pounds of food to 600 local soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, senior nutrition sites and day care centers. Recipients of these provisions include men, women and children of all ages, ethnic, religious and racial backgrounds in communities throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties.



Howard Johnson checks over a packing list as Driver Tim O'Connell (foreground) and Driver Norman Miller (rear) load up trucks for delivery.

PHOTO: TONY LOPEZ

In addition to tackling the problem head on by providing emergency food, the agency offers several programs to educate the community about the causes of hunger and assist Long Islanders in gaining the tools and skills to become "food self-reliant." The New Paths to Achievement Program assists low-income, single head-of-household women in gaining independence through education and employment. The Job Training Program for at-risk young adults provides on-the-job training as well as pre- and post-employment services to help participants search for and maintain employment successfully. Hunger awareness presentations delivered in schools and other community groups, including the popular Hunger 101, educate and sensitize children and adults to the causes and impacts of hunger as

well as ways everyone can contribute to combating the issue.

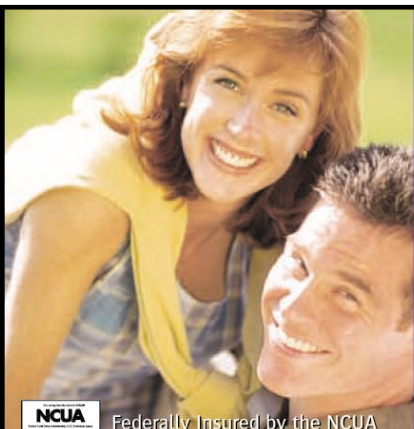
According to Needelman, more than 850,000 individuals and families were served by Long Island Cares in 2004. In the future, the agency will continue to expand and strengthen its network. "With great respect and devotion, we aim to achieve the dream of our founder," Needelman says. "Together we can end hunger on Long Island."

-Claire Curry

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