



*From the Desk of Lynn Needelman*

April, 2008

Dear Friend of Long Island Cares:

When I was a little girl and behaving a bit selfish, my father would ring a small brass bell and proclaim "Think of others". My dad rang that bell a lot! The message finally sank in. I remembered that bell many years later when joining Long Island Cares, and heard it loud and clear three years later when asked to become the Executive Director. Now, 21 years after joining Long Island Cares, and after 18 years as the Executive Director, the time is right to pass on the bell. Let us welcome the new Executive Director, Paule T. Pachter, who brings the experience, dedication, and enthusiasm required to continue the success of Long Island Cares.

Along with preventing hunger on Long Island, the most gratifying part of my tenure has been transforming the vision of Harry Chapin into a reality. Harry had passion - ending hunger. He envisioned an entire community working against hunger. Over the years the Long Island Cares community has developed into one of the most successful anti-hunger organizations in the nation. Our community now includes: the inspirational Chapin family, our dedicated staff, a devoted Board of Directors, hundreds of tireless volunteers and service organizations, heroic member agencies, enthusiastic schools, energetic letter carriers and post office, a compassionate news media, and incredibly generous funders - individuals, corporations, foundations, county, state, and federal governments. Working together, this community successfully prevents and alleviates hunger throughout Long Island. I look forward to continue working within the Long Island Cares community, and have accepted the honor of serving on the Board of Directors.

When Harry founded Long Island Cares in 1980 it supplied 5 emergency food pantries. Much has changed. Operating out of our new, clean, and efficient headquarters and warehouse, the 2008 goal of Long Island Cares is to send over 6 million pounds of food to 576 agencies. We will stave off hunger for 270,000 Long Islanders. Realizing that supplemental food is not the entire answer, we also operate programs to prevent hunger, including New Paths to Achievement, Job Training, the School Tools Project, and fourteen Kids Cafes.

Much has been accomplished. Much more remains to be done. Twenty-seven years ago Harry Chapin gave to me 17 words that have become the motto of Long Island Cares. They are the perfect closing to my farewell letter, and the perfect start to a new chapter:

*'To Know Is To Care  
To Care Is To Act  
To Act Is To Make A Difference'*

The bell keeps ringing. Hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders need our help. Thank you for thinking of others. Thank you for caring. Thank you for making a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.