

## Long Island's Top 50 Women

### LYNN NEEDELMAN

**Long Island Cares, Inc.  
The Harry Chapin Food Bank**



Lynn Needelman is the Executive Director of Long Island Cares, Inc., The Harry Chapin Food Bank. She joined the food bank in 1987 and became their Executive Director in 1991. Needelman had the good fortune to work with Harry Chapin at the Performing Arts Foundation in Huntington for a number of years and came to understand his deep commitment to local cultural arts as well as his passion for ending hunger "in his own back yard." Under Needelman's leadership Long Island Cares recently moved from donated space on the grounds of Pilgrim State Hospital, to a new 35,000 sq. ft. building in Hauppauge that has doubled their capacity to store and distribute food to Long Island families in need. They currently supply food to more than 600 local outreach agencies in Nassau and Suffolk

counties and conduct a variety of self-reliance programs to help those who receive or who are at-risk of needing food assistance.

A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Adelphi University, Needelman is an original board member of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls and currently serves on the boards of the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island; the Long Island Association's Health Alliance and is Vice President of the Suffolk Community Council. She is a former board member of the Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives and the Nassau Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless.

The recipient of a number of awards recognizing her involvement in the community, she credits the dedicated and extremely talented staff and board of Long Island Cares for their deep abiding commitment to helping to end hunger on Long Island, as having a major influence on her success. She also credits Harry Chapin who many years ago personally challenged her to make the world and Long Island a better place. It is a challenge that she rises to every day.

She and her husband Bill live in Huntington, have a daughter, Dawn, and son Brian who recently made them first-time Grandparents of Olivia.