



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE LONG ISLANDERS IN NEED THAN EVER BEFORE

**HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THIS YEAR'S
BETHPAGE TURKEY DRIVE FOR ISLAND HARVEST FOOD BANK**

A NO-CONTACT DONATION CAR DRIVE-THROUGH WILL ALLOW DONORS TO REMAIN IN THEIR CARS

Organizers Expect a Record Number of Donations

Bethpage, NY – October 29, 2020 - The annual Bethpage Turkey Drive to benefit Island Harvest Food Bank will take place on Friday, November 20, 2020, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. At the 12th annual food drive, a no-contact donation car drive-through will enable residents to remain in their cars while volunteers remove donations from vehicles. The Bethpage Turkey Drive will take place at [Bethpage Federal Credit Union's](#) headquarters located at 899 South Oyster Bay Road in Bethpage.

Long Islanders are asked to donate frozen turkeys, non-perishable food items or cash donations. These donations will go directly to [Island Harvest Food Bank](#), which will help supply Thanksgiving meals to the more than 300,000 food-insecure Long Islanders through its distribution network of over 400 food pantries, soup kitchens, and other feeding programs on Long Island. Non-perishable food items needed include canned goods, cereal, pasta, rice, boxed juices, and shelf-stable milk (please, no glass containers). Smaller sized frozen turkeys are particularly needed, to accommodate for this year's smaller family gatherings.

For those unable to make a donation on November 20, or would rather show their support online, Bethpage is accepting online monetary donations at <http://www.lovebethpage.com/turkeydrive>, beginning in November, through the end of the holiday season.

“Our message this year is to support your neighbors! Countless families continue to have financial struggles. Let’s help them enjoy a holiday meal,” said Linda Armyn, Senior Vice President, Bethpage Federal Credit Union. “We are taking all the necessary safety precautions with our first contactless drive-through. Residents will not be allowed to leave their cars. All of our volunteers will be wearing masks and removing donations directly from car trunks and back seats.”

“The economic upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has created a greater need among Long Islanders seeking food assistance, many for the first time,” said Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO, Island Harvest Food Bank. “We are incredibly grateful to Bethpage Federal Credit Union for their support and generosity throughout the year, and look forward to another successful Bethpage Turkey Drive to help food-insecure families enjoy a more hopeful holiday season.”

Patches will be given to all Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who make a donation. A troop leader can also come, make a donation, and bring back patches for the entire troop.

Since the first Bethpage Turkey Drive was organized in 2009, hundreds of community volunteers have come out to assist in the collection of more than 33,000 turkeys and over 130,000 pounds of food, which were then given to Long Island families facing hardship in time for the holidays. Island Harvest Food Bank has seen an increase in the requests for food and support services among the 400 community-based agencies it serves. About 70,000 individuals receive food assistance from the Island Harvest Food Bank network each week.

About Island Harvest Food Bank

[Island Harvest Food Bank](#) is a leading hunger-relief organization that provides food and other resources to people in need. Always treating those it helps with dignity and respect, its mission is to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island through efficient food collection and distribution; enhanced hunger-awareness and nutrition-education programs; job training; and direct services targeted at children, senior citizens, veterans, and others at risk of food insecurity. As a result of Island Harvest Food Bank’s dynamic business model, more than 94 percent of expended resources go directly to programs and services that support more than 300,000 Long Islanders facing hunger. Island Harvest Food Bank is a lead agency in the region’s emergency response preparedness for food and product distribution. It is a member of [Feeding America](#)[®], the nation’s leading domestic hunger-relief organization. For five consecutive years, Island Harvest Food Bank has earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, a leading independent charity watchdog organization. Island Harvest Food Bank is among just 9% of the organizations rated by Charity Navigator to merit the four-star designation. More information about Island Harvest Food Bank is at www.islandharvest.org.

Bethpage Federal Credit Union

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is a premier financial institution committed to enriching the lives of its members, employees and the communities it serves for over 75 years. Bethpage is the largest credit union in the Northeast region, as well as 15th largest in the nation. Voted the Sixth Best Company to Work For in New York State by the New York State Society for Human Resources Management and the Best Place to Work on Long Island by Newsday’s Top Workplaces Poll, Bethpage is a federally chartered credit union, available to people nationwide who open a \$5 dollar membership account. Bethpage offers a robust digital platform that allows members to bank with us from anywhere.

Bethpage is a part of the national CO-OP network that gives members access to their accounts at over 30,000 free ATMs and 5,000+ shared branches across the U.S. As a financial cooperative, Bethpage offers the best-in market rates, lowest fees and world-class service, plus a full menu of personal and commercial financial services. For more information on Bethpage's robust portfolio of banking, borrowing, and investment services, visit www.lovebethpage.com or call 1-800- 628-7070.

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