



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AS THE NEED FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE ON LONG ISLAND INCREASES TO AN ALL TIME HIGH, LONG ISLAND'S LARGEST HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE EVENT COLLECTS RECORD NUMBER OF DONATIONS

**Long Island Residents and Businesses Donate
3,161 Turkeys, 16,000 Pounds of Food, and \$39,000 In Cash Donations to Date, to the
Bethpage Turkey Drive for Island Harvest**

Bethpage, NY – December 1, 2020 -- The 12th Annual Bethpage Turkey Drive for Island Harvest, which took place on November 20, 2020, collected 3,161 turkeys, 16,000 pounds of food and raised more than \$39,000 so far, to support Long Islanders experiencing food insecurity, an issue which has escalated resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic.

"14,000 Long Island families need holiday food this year, a dramatic increase over last year. Thanks to the great efforts of Bethpage Federal Credit Union, and others, we are confident we will be able to meet this need," said Randi Shubin Dresner, President and CEO, Island Harvest.

The Bethpage Turkey Drive for Island Harvest annually collects frozen turkeys, holiday non-perishables and cash donations so that Island Harvest can provide a meaningful holiday experience to people who struggle with hunger each day. Since the start of the pandemic, Island Harvest has distributed more than 11 million pounds of food, a 47% increase over the same period last year.

For the first time, this year's Bethpage Turkey Drive went contactless as community residents remained in their cars while volunteers safely removed donations from vehicles.

"We are very thankful to the Long Island community coming out and showing their unprecedented support during this difficult time," said Linda Army, Senior Vice President, Bethpage Federal Credit Union and the event's organizer. "It was an extraordinary event this year, witnessing hundreds of Long Islanders coming together to help those less fortunate, including those who continue to be impacted by Covid."

For those who were unable to make a donation to the turkey drive, Bethpage Federal Credit Union has set up an online donation page, where monetary contributions can be made directly to Island Harvest. Simply go to www.lovebethpage/turkeydrive now, through December 31.

Since the first Bethpage Turkey Drive was organized in 2009, hundreds of volunteers have come out to assist in the collection of more than 36,000 turkeys and over 158,000 pounds of food, which have been provided to Long Island families facing hardships. Island Harvest Food Bank services 400 community-based agencies and about 70,000 individuals receive food assistance from the food bank network each week.

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