



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COVID CONTINUES TO IMPACT LONG ISLANDERS
MANY WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY FOR A THANKSGIVING MEAL**

**Help a Local Family Enjoy the Holiday at This Year's
Bethpage Turkey Drive for Island Harvest Food Bank**

Bethpage, NY – November 3, 2021 - The Bethpage Turkey Drive to benefit the Island Harvest Food Bank will take place on Friday, November 19, 2021, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The 13th annual food drive will include a no-contact donation car drive-through which will enable community residents to remain in their cars while volunteers remove donations from the vehicles.

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).

The Bethpage Turkey Drive will take place at Bethpage Federal Credit Union's headquarters located at 899 South Oyster Bay Road in Bethpage.

For those unable to make a donation on November 19th, or would rather show their support online, Bethpage is accepting [online monetary donations](http://www.lovebethpage.com/turkeydrive) at <http://www.lovebethpage.com/turkeydrive>, beginning in November, through Friday, December 31st. Donations can also be made at any Bethpage branch.

"2020 was a record-breaking year for the turkey drive," said Linda Armyn, Senior Vice President, Bethpage Federal Credit Union. "We hope Long Islanders continue to show their support again this year as the need on Long Island is still great. We've also taken all necessary safety precautions with the contactless drive-through donation drop-off so everyone should feel very safe."

“Thanks to Bethpage Federal Credit Union’s annual turkey drive and the generosity of countless Long Islanders, we’re able to provide a traditional holiday-style meal, complete with a turkey and all the trimmings, to thousands of local families who are struggling to make ends meet,” said Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO, Island Harvest Food Bank. “Bethpage Federal Credit Union’s support extends beyond the holidays. They are a longtime and year-round partner in our mission to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island, and we are grateful for their caring and support.”

Patches will be given to all Girl Scouts who make a donation. Troop leaders can make a donation on behalf of troop members, 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 40,000 turkeys and over 168,000 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.

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