



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BETHPAGE TURKEY DRIVE FOR ISLAND HARVEST FOOD BANK  
TO HELP THOUSANDS OF LONG ISLANDERS SERVE A  
THANKSGIVING MEAL TO THEIR FAMILY**

***With Inflation at a 40-Year High, Grocery Store Food Costs are Up Over 11%; The Average Cost  
of a Thanksgiving Dinner for Ten is 12.6% Higher Than Last Year***

**Bethpage, NY – November 3, 2022** – Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the Bethpage Turkey Drive to benefit Island Harvest Food Bank will take place on Friday, November 18, 2022, from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. The annual drive, which kicks off the holiday food drive season on Long Island, 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, supermarket gift cards or monetary donations. These donations will go directly to Island Harvest, 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 an on-site donation on November 18<sup>th</sup>, most Bethpage branch locations are accepting non-perishable food items from November 1 through November 18, 2022, with the exception of the Bay Shore King Kullen and Chelsea, NYC branches.

Or, if you would rather show your support online, Bethpage is accepting online monetary donations at <https://bit.ly/3zDUzyu> from November 1 through November 30, 2022. Every gift of \$35 will help support a holiday meal for your Long Island neighbors.

“Bethpage is a proud, longtime partner and supporter of Island Harvest and its mission to help end hunger on Long Island,” said Linda Armyn, Chief Strategy & Marketing Officer. “I encourage everyone to join us this year by making a donation in whatever form and amount you can. With your help, we will make a difference.”

“So many of our neighbors on Long Island are a paycheck away from disaster, and record inflation and high grocery prices are putting additional burden on families struggling to put food on their tables,” said Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO, Island Harvest. “Fortunately, we have a longtime, valued partner in Bethpage Federal Credit Union helping us provide much-needed supplemental food support to the most vulnerable among us. Their ongoing support and generosity are invaluable in our mission to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island.”

Patches will be given to all Girl Scouts and Boy 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 42,000 turkeys and over 179,000 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 human services organization whose mission is to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island. We accomplish this through innovative programs and services aimed at enhanced hunger awareness, short-term case management, nutrition education, outreach and advocacy initiatives, a Workforce Skills Development Institute, our organic farm, and efficient food collection and distribution. Our work directly supports children, families, seniors, and veterans who turn to us in times of crisis and when needed and supports a network of 300 community-based nonprofit organizations. Island Harvest Food Bank is a member of Feeding America®, a nationwide network of food banks leading the effort to solve hunger in the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.islandharvest.org](http://www.islandharvest.org).

### **Bethpage Federal Credit Union**

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is a premier community financial institution committed to enriching the lives of its members, employees and the communities it serves for the past 80 years. Bethpage is the largest credit union in the Northeast Region, and the 15<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation.

As a not-for-profit credit union, Bethpage is committed to its members and the communities it serves. In addition to giving back to its members in the form of great rates and low fees, the Bethpage Cares program invests heavily in local, high-impact community programs that serve with an eye towards creating better communities through diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Voted the Glass Door Top Place to Work for Small & Midsize companies, 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 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](http://www.lovebethpage.com) or call 1-800- 628-7070.

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