



Coronavirus Emergency Response Program
Strategic Interim Report
March 9 – April 2, 2020

Our Coronavirus Emergency Response Program opened on March 9, 2020 with a roll-out of a revised Emergency Contingency Business Plan (identifying special precautions to retain the safety of our important assets: Staff, Volunteers, Clients, Food) a special food purchasing and delivery model and more, as outlined below. Our entire operation is now centered on this response and all our regular programming has been re-adapted to accommodate this response.

1. High Need Communities – School Distribution Partners

Thirty-two school districts were identified as having or needing Pop-Up food distribution program as part of their school lunch program; Island Harvest has been supporting them with supplemental food for other members of the family. Pallets of products (perishable and non-perishable foods) are dropped off for them to distribute and in some cases, we stay on-site to distribute our product in a different area. All distributions are done using a “drive-through” model to ensure safety, no one gets out of their cars and we all maintain a safe “social distance” from each other. We are also sending information on SNAP benefits to distribute and post on web sites, etc. We worked with the superintendent’s association of both counties and sent a survey about food needs to 124 school districts, of which 32 districts responded so far, indicating that they needed our food support, 92 have not responded yet. The list of districts we are serving or in touch with, includes:

Amityville, Baldwin, Brentwood, Brookhaven, Central Islip, Comsewogue, Copiague, East Rockaway, Freeport, Farmingdale, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Levittown, Lynbrook, North Babylon, Patchogue, Rocky Point, Riverhead, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Valley Stream, West Islip, Westbury, Wyandanch, and William Floyd

2. “Harvest-to-Home Delivery Program”

We have already delivered to more than 1731 to people who are homebound, including seniors and veterans, either directly or through community delivery partners. An appropriate protocol was created to support a volunteer delivery program for a drop-off model, with health safety being a top priority. Volunteers will call ahead, drop off the product at the door and then call to make sure they are aware of the delivery. There is no direct contact with the clients, and all volunteers are required to wear gloves and masks and must provide appropriate documentation (copy of a driver’s license, insurance, etc.). Nassau County has ordered more than 1,000 meal boxes from us for quarantined residents and elderly who are homebound; they are making deliveries on our behalf.

3. Mobile Pantry Direct Delivery and Pick Up Programs

Our Mobile Pantry program continues during this crisis to ensure that our seniors, veteran and immunocompromised clients continue to get support. During this period we have supported



communities such as: *Central Islip, Bay Shore, Glen Cover, and Amityville*. We continue to run our Pick-Up Distribution Programs for more than 300 non-profit member organizations and our client food pantry's at each of our 4 Food Collection and Distribution Centers

4. Emergency Purchasing Program

During this Coronavirus Emergency Response Program, to date, we changed our model of food procurement to now purchasing 50% more food than last year, same time (a dramatic model change from our historic donation-based model). Our specially designed *healthy meal boxes* accommodate a family of four for four days. From March 9 through April 2, we *purchased nearly \$750,000 in meal boxes* and additional purchases are planned through May. Challenge : There is a considerable delay in the delivery of these meal boxes and other products ordered because of the nationwide demand. Some orders are taking up to 3-4 weeks for delivery. As a result, we are preparing larger orders to accommodate the anticipated increased demand in the coming weeks.

5. Community Partners

Island Harvest Food Bank is lending its expertise on the front-line by partnering with 288 community-based non-profit organizations, 32 school districts, the Suffolk County Executive's Office, the Nassau County Department of Health, Nassau and Suffolk County veterans' organizations. We are working with local, state, and federal government officials, community-based organizations and others to offer guidance and provide food across Long Island. Other partner organizations we are working with or planning to work with include:

Beacon House, Family Service League, Family and Children's Assoc., Freeport Housing Authority, Hempstead Senior Housing, HELP Suffolk, Glen Cove Senior Center, LI Federally Qualified Health Centers, Long Beach MLK Senior Community Center, Lighthouse Mission, Northwell Health Huntington, Northwell Health – Valley Stream and Southside, Racetrack Chaplaincy, Shinnecock Revival Center, and Sid Jacobson JCC.

6. Communications Plan, Internal and External

Daily internal strategic planning meetings are held via teleconferencing to provide up-to-date reporting and planning. Reports are distributed weekly to the media; our social media sites are updated daily with relevant news and information, including requests for monetary support, and our work is reported in local, regional, and national news outlets. Island Harvest has been listed as a local resource for emergency food in local print and broadcast media. We have had coverage on local electronic and print media as well as WABC-TV, WPIX, News12, WNBC.

7. An Emergency Funding Program

To ensure that we can continue our Coronavirus Emergency Response, we ***established a campaign to raise \$1 million*** from individuals, businesses, corporations, and foundations. Funds support all of our efforts including our Food Purchasing Program and our emergency response work. We are applying for financial assistance through FEMA, The Cares Act, Feeding America and others. Bank of America provided a lead grant of \$250,000, and additional support has come in from Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Sterling Bank, TD Bank, and Morgan Stanley



Eastern Long Island Complex, among others. To date, more than 1,000 contributions to our Phase I Campaign, was closed and the implementation of Phase II will begin shortly.

8. In-Kind Support

We’ve received in-kind donations from Amazon (regular food box deliveries to drop-off sites), Uber (delivery of food boxes), Lyft (rides for clients to pick up food), Sunbelt Rentals (electric pallet jack rental donations), J.Kings/Sysco (food, trucks, drivers and more), Steel Equities (20,000 square -foot warehouse space), and others.

9. Community Sorting Project Planned

Steele Equities has generously donated a 20,000 square-foot facility in Bethpage to accommodate a massive sorting project to produce our family meal boxes. The program will be set up using “social distancing” and other health and safety protocols for volunteers sorting the products. We are still in need of 30,000 boxes, tape, shrink wrap, tables, chairs, electric pallet jacks, and forklifts to accommodate this project.

By the Numbers

- Food and Product Distributions (Mobile Food Programs and Other):
 - Drop-off sites: 320
 - Pounds of product distributed: 647,000 lbs.
 - Meals supported: 540,000 meals
 - Homebound deliveries (seniors, veterans): 1731
 - Active school district partners: 23

- On a Waiting List for Deliveries:
 - School Districts
 - Community-based orgs
 - Senior Housing Units
 - Homebound Deliveries

- SNAP screenings and community resource referrals: 676
 - SNAP applications submitted: 165

- Emergency Response Organizational Needs:
 - Non-perishable food donations
 - Field supplies
 1. Masks, hand sanitizers, gloves
 2. boxes, tape, shrink wrap, laptops, vans, trucks
 - Recovery of operational costs
 - Logistical support

