Food Donor Program

We bridge the gap between those with excess food and those who need it.
Who We Are

- Island Harvest Food Bank is a leading hunger-relief organization on Long Island. Our mission is to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island.
- We bridge the gap between those with excess food and those who need it.
- During FY2019-2020, our organization purchased, collected, and distributed over 13 million pounds of food and product—that equates to nearly 11 million meals!

Who We Serve

- A network of over 400 member agencies with feeding programs across Long Island, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, day cares, senior centers, and other nonprofit organizations.
- Hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders struggling with food insecurities are:
  - Children
  - Families
  - Seniors
  - Veterans
  - Active Military Personnel
  - People with Disabilities
  - Active Military Personnel
  - People with Disabilities

Our Food Donors

- More than 800 food donors of all sizes support our programs, including:
  - Sysco
  - Target
  - DiCarlo
  - Wells Farm
  - Nestle
  - Panera
  - Stop & Shop
  - Anderson Farms
  - Costco
  - Whole Foods
  - Satur Farms

Managing Your Donations

- Island Harvest arranges convenient pick-ups adhering to strict food safety protocols.
- We maintain a fleet of vehicles staffed by professional transporters.
- Our organization is supported by more than 14,000 registered volunteers.
- We provide all of the necessary supplies and equipment for the proper transport of food donations.
- All donations are properly inventoried and receipted.

The Law Protects Our Work

- **Federal Law** – *The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* states that all donations, given in good faith and without gross negligence, are exempt from legal liability.
Food Safety

- We adhere to the highest of standards regarding the safe transport, storage and handling of food donations.
- Our organization offers education opportunities regarding nutrition and food safety to the Long Island community.

Become a Food Donor

- Join Island Harvest’s network of 800+ food donors. It’s easy!
- Call our office for more information at 631-873-4775 ext. 206.
- Visit our website for an online food donation application: www.islandharvest.org/retailrescue/

How Food Donation Benefits You

- Customers will be encouraged to buy products from companies supporting hunger relief and giving back to the community.
- Improves morale with employees.
- Makes an important statement of caring to your customers and community.
- You will save money on food disposal and carting costs.
- All food donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult with your tax advisor.

Protection for Donors: The Good Samaritan Laws

- **Federal Law** – Enacted 1996, The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act states that all donations, given in good faith and without gross negligence, are exempt from legal liability.
  - The Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (which can be found at 42 U.S.C. Section 1771 et. seq.) encourages the donation of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals by limiting the liability of those who provide food.
- **New York State Law** – Enacted 1981, Article 4-D, Section 71-2 “holds harmless” the donor of perishable and non-perishable food to Island Harvest.
  - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a good faith donor of any canned or perishable food or farm product, apparently for human consumption, to a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization, for free distribution in New York State shall not be subject to criminal penalty or civil damages arising from the condition of the food, if the said donor reasonably inspects the food at the time of donation and finds the food apparently safe for human consumption, and unless the donor has actual or constructive knowledge that the food is adulterated, tainted, contaminated, or harmful to the health or well-being of the person consuming said food.
  - This section includes the good faith donation of canned or perishable food or farm products not readily marketable due to appearance, freshness, grade, surplus, or other consideration, but shall not be deemed or construed to restrict the authority of any lawful agency to otherwise regulate or ban the use of such food for human consumption.

Please note, however, that the donation of food and grocery products may also be subject to certain state and local restrictions.
Important Information for Food Donors

1. All food requiring refrigeration must be chilled down to 40 degrees or lower and/or be frozen before Island Harvest volunteers/staff can pick it up.

2. Food can only be donated if it is fit for human consumption, and if it has a shelf life of at least two days. Do not donate food that you would not eat yourself, or feed to your children.

3. We transport food needing refrigeration in our fleet of trucks. It is important for us to know the approximate amount of food that is to be picked up so that we can send the proper equipment. Any food requiring refrigeration that does not fit into our trucks will need to be picked up at a later time.

4. Our volunteers/staff are not permitted to accept free food for their own personal use.

5. If you do not have a regularly scheduled pickup and are on an “as called” basis, please give us as much notice as possible so that we can schedule a volunteer to assist.

Prepared Foods:

1. All food must be packed in sanitized or single-use containers that have been approved for food storage. When using aluminum trays, please use half size rather than full size.

2. Food can never be transported or stored in garbage bags.

3. Island Harvest volunteers are not approved food handlers, and therefore they are not permitted to pack, wrap, or rewrap items for the food donor.

4. We also handle food rescued from events such as weddings, sweet sixteen celebrations, bar mitzvahs, and more. Please call our Operations Coordinator at 631-873-4775 ext. 206 for more information.
Thank you for your support!

Island Harvest
A FOOD BANK FOR LONG ISLAND

Melville | Uniondale | Hauppauge | Calverton
631-873-4775 | 516-294-8528
www.islandharvest.org