



Food Donor Program



**ISLAND
HARVEST**
MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA
Nourishing Long Island's Future



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.

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 Fiscal Year 2020-2021, our organization purchased, collected, and distributed over 18 million pounds of food and product—that equates to nearly 16 million meals!

Who We Serve

- Hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders struggling with food insecurity including:
 - Children
 - Families
 - Seniors
 - Veterans
 - Active Military Personnel
 - People with Disabilities
 - People who are Homeless
- A network of over 300 member agencies with feeding programs across Long Island, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, day cares, senior centers, and other nonprofit organizations.

Our Food Donors

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

Managing Your Donations

- Island Harvest arranges convenient pick-ups adhering to strict food safety protocols.
- We maintain a fleet of refrigerated vehicles staffed by professional transporters.
- Our organization is supported by more than 18,000 registered volunteers.
- We provide all necessary supplies and equipment for the proper transport of food donations.
- All donations are properly inspected, inventoried and receipted.

Importance of Nutritious Food

- Individuals who are food-insecure are at higher risk for chronic illnesses such as obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.
- We make it a priority to distribute products that have high nutritional value and are appropriate for the dietary and cultural needs of our clients.
- In our food rescue and distribution programs, we look to minimize the amount of highly processed foods, including cakes, cookies, candy and sweetened beverages distributed, and appreciate your efforts to reduce donations of these items as well. If you are unsure about the nutritional quality of a particular food item, email kathleen@islandharvest.org.

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 www.islandharvest.org/retailrescue/ for an online food donation application

How Food Donations Benefit You

- Customers will be encouraged to buy products from companies supporting hunger-relief and giving back to the community.
- Your donations improve employee morale.
- This support 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 for confirmation and more information.



Approximately 40% of the food produced in the U.S. goes uneaten. Meanwhile 2.8 million New Yorkers are food-insecure.

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.

NYS Food Donation and Food Scraps Law

- Effective January 1, 2022, generators of more than 2 tons of wasted food per week are required to donate all edible food.
- Contact Island Harvest and we will address any questions you may have related to this law. **Call 516- 294-8528 or 631-873-4775 and ask for our Procurement Team.**



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. Please 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. Please have all donated goods ready for pick up at the pre-scheduled times. Our volunteers/staff are not permitted to touch the food products or pack the food.



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



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



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. **All containers must include an official Island Harvet label on them,** completed with product type, ingredients and any allergen information.



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



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



5. We also handle food rescued from events such as corporate events, weddings, sweet sixteens, bar mitzvahs, and more. **Please call our Procurement Team well in advance of the event at 631-873-4775 ext. 236 for more information.**

Thank you for your support!



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Melville | Calverton | Uniondale

631-873-4775 | 516-294-8528 | www.islandharvest.org

