



Debbie Salas-Lopez, M.D. MPH, and Kishore Kuncham, Ed.D. Join Island Harvest Food Bank's Board of Directors

MELVILLE, NY — August 23, 2022 — Debbie Salas-Lopez, M.D., MPH, Senior Vice President, Community and Population Health, Northwell Health, and Kishore Kuncham, Ed.D., Superintendent of the Freeport Public Schools, have been elected to the Board of Directors of [Island Harvest Food Bank](#), according to Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO of the Melville, NY-based hunger-relief and social services organization.

Dr. Salas-Lopez is responsible for Northwell Health's community and public health strategy, including community health investment, community relations, strategic community partnerships, and its smoking cessation, human trafficking and Food as Health programs. The Food as Health partnership with Island Harvest Food Bank was the first hospital-based initiative in New York State to address food insecurity among patients comprehensively. The program, a partnership that includes Island Harvest Food Bank, addresses various factors that may lead to food insecurity — including affordability issues, a lack of nutritional awareness, transportation/mobility challenges, and difficulty in preparing meals.

Academically, Dr. Salas-Lopez was a professor of medicine at the University of South Florida, Morsani College of Medicine and the College of Public Health, and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. She resides in Hampton Bays, NY and Westport, CT.

As the Superintendent of Freeport Public Schools, Kishore Kuncham, Ed.D. has been a visionary educational leader and a changemaker both in the schools and community. Dr. Kuncham has created world-class opportunities and supports for all students leading to the highest student achievement in decades. His focus on the whole child approach and the well-being of all students allows them to grow and thrive academically, socially and emotionally to reach their fullest potential. Dr. Kuncham has worked closely with Island Harvest Food Bank in creating several childhood nutrition and anti-hunger programs to ensure that no child in Freeport goes without food. In addition, he has been an ardent supporter of the food bank's efforts to provide the residents of Freeport with supplemental food support for many years, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Kuncham, the first Indian-American school superintendent in New York, also holds a Law Degree, a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a professional diploma in Educational Administration. A resident of Dix Hills, Dr. Kuncham is married and has two sons and two grandsons.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Salas-Lopez and Dr. Kuncham to Island Harvest Food Bank's Board of Directors,” said Ms. Shubin Dresner. “The collective knowledge they possess in their respective fields, along with their passion for helping improve the lives of people facing food insecurity, add a unique perspective to an already dynamic board of professional leaders in business and community.”

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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 and efficient food collection and distribution. Our work directly supports children, families, seniors, and veterans who turn to us in times of crisis 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 fight against hunger in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.islandharvest.org.

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Contact: Don Miller
West End Strategies, Ltd.
516-330-1647
don@westendstrategiespr.com