



Island Harvest/Stop & Shop Partner in a Unique Community Supported Agriculture Program

Innovative initiative will help food insecure LI'ers and provide an economic boost for the region's farmers thanks to a \$60,000 grant from Stop & Shop

BRENTWOOD, NY — August 18, 2022 — People struggling with food insecurity often face chronic health issues, including diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and other adverse conditions, according to Randi Shubin Dresner, president & CEO of [Island Harvest Food Bank](#), a leading Long Island human services organization.

Thanks to a generous \$60,000 grant from [Stop & Shop](#), a new and unique variation on the concept of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program enables Island Harvest to purchase healthy, fresh, locally grown produce from local farmers and, in turn, distribute it to families struggling to put food on their tables.

Typically, CSAs are a community of individuals who support farm operations so that the farmland becomes the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of growing food.

Under the program, unlike expecting needy families and individuals to pay for “shares” in the CSA program, Stop & Shop is sponsoring the participants, thus allowing them to have access to a program typically enjoyed by people who are financially able to become involved in a CSA. Participants will receive “CSA shares,” giving them access to four to six items of rotating healthy produce items in their “share” based on seasonal availability, something many of our neighbors in need seldom have easy access to. People in the program will pick up their produce at a location in their community every other week for 20 weeks. At the end of the program, recipients will receive a \$50 Stop & Shop gift card. As part of the new initiative, and in keeping with the healthy food direction of the food bank and Stop & Shop, Island Harvest's registered dietician will provide guidance on preparing fresh vegetables, interpreting nutrition labels, and shopping for healthy food on a budget.

The CSA program will support approximately 180 families in Brentwood and Central Islip. Information about the initiative can be obtained at the Brentwood Public Library at 631-273-7883, the Central Islip Library at 631-234-9333, or Island Harvest 631-873-4775.

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The region's agricultural industry, among the largest in New York state, has been plagued by increased costs for fuel and other essential products, global supply chain issues, and labor shortages. "The CSA program not only addresses the persistent issue of hunger and food insecurity on Long Island, but creates a new and consistent market opportunity for the region's farmers," said Ms. Shubin Dresner. "Helping food insecure people access more nutritious fruits and vegetables while providing an economic boost to Long Island's farmers is a win-win situation. We are extremely grateful to our long-time partner, Stop & Shop, for their generous support of this initiative."

"Stop & Shop is honored to work with Island Harvest Food Bank to create the Community Supported Agriculture program, which will provide Long Island families with fresh fruits and vegetables," said Stop & Shop spokesperson Stefanie Shuman. "Stop & Shop customers turn to us for high-quality, local produce to feed their families, and we're proud to enable Island Harvest to provide the same nutritious items to Long Island families in need of assistance."

About Stop & Shop

A neighborhood grocer for more than 100 years, Stop & Shop offers a wide assortment with a focus on fresh, healthy options at a great value. Stop & Shop's GO Rewards loyalty program delivers personalized offers and allows customers to earn points that can be redeemed for gas or groceries every time they shop. Stop & Shop customers can choose how and where they want to shop - whether it's in-store or online for delivery or same day pickup. The company is committed to making an impact in its communities by fighting hunger, supporting our troops, and investing in pediatric cancer research to help find a cure. The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC is an Ahold Delhaize USA Company and employs 58,000 associates and operates more than 400 stores throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey. To learn more about Stop & Shop, visit www.stopandshop.com

About Island Harvest Food Bank

[Island Harvest Food Bank](http://www.islandharvest.org) 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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