



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



#### 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 Healthy Harvest Farm, 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 need. Our work also supports a network of community-based nonprofit organizations who are directly assisting our neighbors in need. Island Harvest Food Bank is a member of Feeding America®, a nationwide network of food banks leading the effort to solve hunger in the U.S.

Charity:

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Navigator

Charity:

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To learn more, visit www.islandharvest.org.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

I am pleased to share Island Harvest's 2023-2024 Annual Report, a year dedicated to honoring the legacy of our founder, Linda Breitstone, who passed away earlier this year.

Linda was a trailblazer who established Island Harvest at a time when food insecurity was largely overlooked. Her tenacity and unwavering belief that everyone deserves access to healthy food has touched countless lives. While we mourn her loss, we also celebrate the enduring impact of her work.

Today, one in thirteen Long Islanders will go to bed hungry tonight, and over 221,000 people—including one in fourteen children—experience food insecurity. These staggering statistics underscore the urgency of our mission.

Over the past 32 years, Island Harvest has grown from distributing just 275,000 pounds of food in our early days to an unprecedented 18.3 million pounds of food last year – surpassing even our distribution levels during the height of COVID-19. Yet, rising food and housing costs, coupled with the expiration of pandemic-era government assistance programs have left many families facing impossible choices between essentials like food, medicine, and childcare.

This report showcases our work to confront these challenges. Programs such as the Workforce Skills Development Institute, Nutrition Pathways Program, and Community Empowerment Program not only alleviate hunger but promote health, honor cultural traditions, and uphold dignity.

We are profoundly grateful for your generosity, which makes this work possible. Your support fuels our mission to end hunger and ensures that we continue to deliver programs that empower our neighbors to thrive.

Together, we carry forward Linda's legacy of compassion and service.

With gratitude,

Randi Shubin Dresner
President & CEO



### THIS YEAR, GREATER NEED WAS MET WITH GREATER RESPONSE

During fiscal year 2023-2024, rising cost-of-living expenses, coupled with the looming threat of cutbacks in government assistance programs, have left many families facing impossible choices between essentials like groceries, medicine, and childcare. This overview looks at the strides we're making, and showcases our day-to-day work that's confronting these challenges.

# THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY



**18.3 MILLION POUNDS** OF FOOD



182,000 MILES DRIVEN BY THE FOOD BANK FLEET

covering our 1,200 square-mile service area



15.3 MILLION **MEALS SUPPORTED** 



**2,109 SNAP APPLICATIONS** submitted by our Community

Empowerment Team



**781,300 MEALS FOR CHILDREN** 

through our Kids Weekend Backpack Feeding Program, Summer Food Service Program, School Pantry Program, and Youth Produce Project



**23 GRADUATES** 

completed our Warehouse and Inventory Control Training Program



47,284 FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED TO SENIORS living on less than \$1,632 per month



18,500 POUNDS OF PRODUCE

grown on our Healthy Harvest Farm in Brentwood.

O PSEG



**MEALS DISTRIBUTED BY** OUR HUNGER PROGRAMS

THOUSANDS 840 -600 -480 — 360 240 120

rs helping neighbors at a food pantry

"The amount of caring and love

that's on L. I.

amaze me."

never ceases to

**During Island Harvest's** 

we distributed 275,000 pounds of food.

first full year of operation, under Linda's guidance,

— Linda Breitstone

#### **NOVEL INITIATIVES ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AT THE SOURCE**

Recognizing that addressing food insecurity on Long Island requires tackling its root causes, Island Harvest has developed innovative programs that go beyond providing healthy food. We empower our neighbors with the tools to build pathways to success and self-sufficiency.

#### **Food Rescue**

- Throughout our more than thirty-year history, food rescue has been a key component of Island Harvest's hunger-relief work. By redirecting surplus food and products to our neighbors in need—most of which would otherwise go to waste—we are simultaneously addressing hunger, reducing food waste, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions for a safer, healthier environment.
- 62% of food distributed last year was rescued:
- 68% is from retail stores such as Sam's Club, Costco and Stop & Shop
- 17% is from manufacturers/distributors such as Sysco and Amazon
- 15% is from national food rescue partners, including Feeding America and Sharing Excess

#### **Community Empowerment**

• Island Harvest facilitated SNAP Applications that generated an estimated \$10 million in SNAP benefits. These funds are spent locally in grocery stores and other retail establishments, also supporting our neighbors in need and the local economy.

#### **Workforce Skills Development Institute**

• 23 graduates, 65% are employed earning an average wage of \$20 per hour.

#### **Nutrition Education**

• 2,098 individual and group nutrition education sessions on topics such as eating healthy on a budget, cooking with pantry staples, and learning to read nutrition labels.

#### **Alternative Food Sources**







# "These are our neighbors that we're helping. We must always remember thát."

Island Harvest was founded as a food rescue organization when Linda noticed her local convenience store throwing away food at the end of the day. Knowing there was a women's shelter nearby, she knew she had to take action.



#### **DONATED FOOD RECEIVED ANNUALLY** POUNDS IN MILLIONS



GUIDANCE

te fruits and

9.72 14.56 10.80 9.91



We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our volunteers, elected officials, corporate volunteer teams, and the caring community that has always helped us to answer the call for assistance when our neighbors need help.

#### **Dedicated volunteers**

• More than **58,707 hours were donated by volunteers**, including **109 corporate groups**, who picked up and delivered food, packed food boxes, worked on our Healthy Harvest Farm, supported food distribution events, assisted in our offices, made phone calls, loaned professional skills, and so much more.

#### **Community Support**

• More than 900 individuals, corporate groups, and community organizations hosted food drives to collect 761,000 pounds of healthy food and raised more than \$121,000 for our Long Island neighbors in need.

#### **Generous Partners**

• More than 195 partners contributed over \$910,000 through event sponsorships for our annual Golf Classic, Stamp Out Hunger, Taste of the Harvest Celebration, Turkey and Trimmings Collection Campaign, volunteer events and more.

#### **PARTNER SNAPSHOT BY THE NUMBERS:**

Our Hunger Relief Network Includes:

**284** Food pantry, soup kitchen, and shelter partners

**4** "Food as Medicine" program sites

**13** Mobile Market sites for community members

**13** Central Distribution sites for network partners

93 Senior nutrition program sites92 Child nutrition program sites

**54** Giving Gardens

**15** Seed Libraries

AND
RVEST TEEDER

Ing Long Island's Future

"Volunteers are just the best human beings in the world... people who really just want to reach out to their neighbors... people who care."

— Linda Breitstone

PASSION

Packing food boxes at a volunteer event

VOLUNTEER

Linda secured a grant for the organization's first refrigerated truck through the now defunct, European American Bank, and another through the Roslyn Savings Bank.

POUNDS OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD COLLECTED ANNUALLY MILLIONS

'19 '20 '21 '22 '23 '24

9.8 13.1 18.3 15.5 16.2

#### **RAISING AWARENENESS... FROM COUNTY TO CONGRESS**

Island Harvest has been a tireless advocate for legislative policies that protect individuals and families from hunger. By amplifying the voices of those we serve, we are striving to create lasting change at both the local, state, and national levels.

#### **Nourish Suffolk County**

• Developed and secured \$250,000 for a new program, "Nourish Suffolk County," in partnership with Suffolk County. Modeled after Nourish New York, Island Harvest will utilize funding to purchase fresh, locally grown produce from ten Suffolk-based farms to distribute to Suffolk residents in need.

#### **State Level Advocacy**

 Successfully advocated with New York State to include an additional \$23 million in the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP). Island Harvest directly benefited from approximately \$2.4 million of that additional money.

#### **Federal Advocacy**

• We remain committed to a strong Farm Bill at the federal level; unfortunately, both parties in Washington and both houses of Congress were unable to agree to a comprehensive new Farm Bill. A one-year extension was recently passed that allows Island Harvest and our partners in Feeding New York State and Feeding America to continue advocating for a strong Farm Bill that addresses food insecurity.

Island Harvest is monitoring changes at the Federal level as some of the funding we rely on to serve our neighbors is in jeopardy. We remain a nimble organization and will pivot in whichever direction is needed to fulfill our mission to end hunger on Long Island.



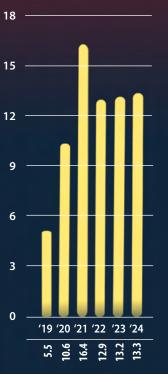
"Every day you should do a service that doesn't benefit you. If everyone did that kind of service... what a great world this would be."

— Linda Breitstone

Linda increased the visibility of the issue of hunger on Long Island at a time when food insecurity was largely overlooked.



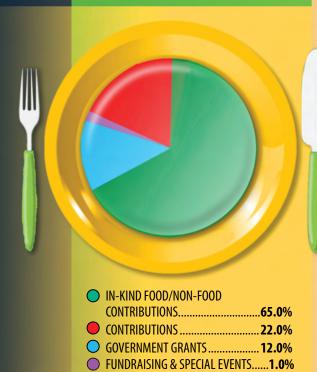
# THE RISING COSTS OF HUNGER RELIEF MILLIONS \$



#### ISLAND HARVEST, LTD.

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

# SOURCES OF OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT



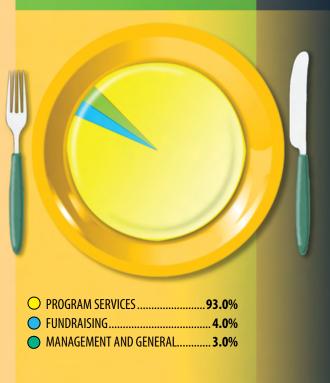
# FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 **SUPPORT AND REVENUE** June 30, 2024 **Donated Food** \$ 25,714,805 Donations in-Kind 552,750 8,681,140 Contributions Government grants 4,626,942 Special events (net of direct costs to donor) 465,669 273,908 Investment income, net Other income 3,471 Loss on disposal of equipment (142,500) **TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE** \$40,176,185 **EXPENSES** \$ 37,265,726 Program services Management and general 1,182,377 **Fundraising** 1,571,072 \$40,019,175 **TOTAL EXPENSES CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** 157,010 **NET ASSETS, BEGINNING 17,138,467 NET ASSETS, ENDING** \$17,295,477

The Statement of Activities, and Statement of Financial Position on the following page were derived from our financial statement audited by Cerini and Associates. A copy of audited financial statements are available upon request.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  |               |
|---|---------------|
| ASSETS  |               |
|   | June 30, 2024 |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 976,889    |
| Investments and marketable securities   | 2,914,460     |
| Grants and current portion of contributions receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts and present value discount | 1,812,251     |
| Inventory of food and consumer products   | 1,493,408     |
| Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation   | 10,730,218    |
| Operating lease right of use  | 1,056,397     |
| Long-term portion of contributions receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts and present value discount          | 1,747,708     |
| Other assets  |               |
| Other assets  | 422,562       |
| TOTAL ASSETS  | \$21,153,893  |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  |               |
| Current Liabilities   |               |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses   | \$ 905,929    |
| Current portion of mortgage and note payable  | 821,905       |
| Other current liabilities   | 290,461       |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES   | \$ 2,018,295  |
| Mortgage note payable, net of current portion   | 455,160       |
| Operating lease liability, net of current portion   | 1,008,680     |
| Deferred compensation payable   | 376,281       |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES   | \$ 3,858,416  |
| NET ASSETS  |               |
|   | ¢ 14 264 4F2  |
| Without donor restriction   | \$ 14,364,453 |
| Without donor restriction With donor restriction  | 2,931,024     |
|   |               |

# HOW WE USE OUR RESOURCES





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# **DIRECTORS** & OFFICERS

#### **Board of Directors**

#### Stephen J. Juchem

Chair, Executive Committee Community Leader

#### **Immediate Past Chair**

#### **Daniel S. Grinberg**

President

Elara Brands LLC

#### Vice Chairman

#### **Jill Bernstein**

Community Leader

#### Vice Chairman

#### **Barry Chandler**

Chair, Personnel Committee Chair, Nominating Commitee General Manager Nissequogue Golf Club

#### Treasurer

#### **Ross Turrini**

Chief Operating Officer NY Gas National Grid

#### Secretary

#### **Donald Sussman**

Community Leader

#### **Honorable Frank Beyrodt**

Chair, Government Relations Committee **Executive Vice President** DeLea Sod Farms, Inc.

#### Rebecca D'Eloia

Chair, Building Committee **Executive Vice President RXR Development Services** 

#### **Lawrence Eisenstein** MD, MPH, FACP

Vice President and Chief Public & Community Health Officer Catholic Health - Long Island

#### **Christine Going,** EdD, MPA, RD, FACHE

Senior Advisor Food Security Program Office Veterans Health Administration

#### **Brad Griggs**

Director, Economic Development Policy Amazon

#### S. Zaki Hossain

President Pintail Coffee

#### **Tarig Khan**

Pre<u>sident</u> Sentar Enterprises Niats Realty Corp.

#### Kishore Kuncham, EdD

Community Leader

#### **David C. Lyons**

Interim President & COO PSEG — Long Island

#### James McGinn

Regional Vice President Stop & Shop

#### Honorable Ignatius "Nate" L. Muscarella, Esq.

District Court Judge District Court, Nassau County

#### Doug Nadjari

Chair, Governance/BY LAWS Committee Partner, Ruskin Moscou Faltischek PC

#### Honorable Elaine R. Phillips

Nassau County Comptroller

#### **Stuart Richner**

Chair, Audit Committee Chair, Insurance Committee President and CEO **Richner Communications** 

### Deb Salas-Lopez, MD, MPH

Senior Vice President Northwell Health

#### **Ellen Sanders**

Community Leader

#### **Dave Widmer**

Vice President/Long Island-Brooklyn Optimum Media

# **Advisory Board**

#### Chair

Lee Heit Beck, Esq. Leit Heit, Attorney at Law P.C.

#### Rabbi Mickey Baum

Rabbi/Director of Education Temple Beth Am of Merrick

New York State Chaplain Task Force John T. Bauer, Esq.

Office Managing Shareholder Littler Mendelson, P.C.

#### Leslie Hall

Halls Carpet Inc.

# Loretta Sehlmeyer

Community Leader

# James Skinner

President

A & C Exterminating Corp.

#### Andrew J. Turro, Esq.

Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein

# **Honorary Board Members**

#### **Jay Bernstein**

Manager

NIC Sustainable Investments LLC

#### Rabbi Marc Gellman

(Retired)

Community Leader

#### Steven A. Klar

President

The Klar Organization

#### **Bob Nystrom**

Partner

Score Credit Card Processing

#### **Mark Rechler**

President Build 360

### **Arthur Waldbaum**

Community Leader

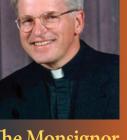
# In Recognition

#### **Linda Breitstone**

Founder, Island Harvest

## Monsignor Thomas J. Hartman

Past Board of Directors Chairman



# The Monsignor Thomas Hartman President's Council

#### **Seth Asofsky Community Leader**

Michael Babich **Community Leader** 

**Edward J. Fred** Community Leader

#### Sandi Nussbaum Community Leader

## **Marc Tell**

The Sam Tell Companies





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www.islandharvest.org







