



**Island Harvest**  
A FOOD BANK FOR LONG ISLAND



## ABOUT ISLAND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Island Harvest Food Bank is a leading hunger-relief organization that provides food and other resources to people in need. Always treating those we help with dignity and respect, our mission is to end hunger and reduce poverty on Long Island through efficient food collection and distribution; enhanced hunger-awareness and nutrition-education programs; job training; and direct services targeted at children, senior citizens, veterans and others at-risk.

Approximately 94 percent of resources expended directly support programs and services for 316,000 Long Islanders including adults, children, seniors, families, veterans and people with disabilities. We are a lead agency in the region's emergency-response preparedness for food and product distribution, and a member of Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief organization.

More info: [www.islandharvest.org](http://www.islandharvest.org).



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# COMBATTING CHILDHOOD HUNGER

Supporting  
Long Island's Youth



[www.islandharvest.org](http://www.islandharvest.org)



Food security is fundamental for all children to lead happy, healthy lives. Insufficient nutrition keeps students from doing well in school, and is linked to physical and mental health problems. Through a variety of initiatives, Island Harvest Food Bank has developed and implemented several successful programs to ensure that children from food-insecure homes have access to the food they need to thrive. Our methods of engagement teach children the importance of good nutrition, and provide them with a core education to make healthy food choices that will keep them motivated at school and give them the energy they need for each day. As a result, these children learn habits that enable them to live a healthy lifestyle.

**The Kids Weekend Backpack Feeding Program**, established in 2006, serves food-insecure students in school districts throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties.

- ◆ In 2016, The Kids Weekend Backpack Feeding Program served approximately 1,700 students weekly at 27 schools throughout 9 districts across Long Island. During the 2016-2017 school year, 62,000 packs were distributed.

**The Summer Food Service Program** has provided free meals and nutritional information to children since 2009.

- ◆ In 2016, The Summer Feeding Program provided more than 153,000 meals to 5,000 children (breakfast, lunch, snacks) at 66 locations across Nassau and Suffolk counties.

**The School Pantry Program** is a year-round program that delivers a monthly supply of food to Long Island schools, who in turn distribute it to families within the district.

- ◆ In 2016, The School Pantry Program served 1,650 kids at 15 schools, providing food, education and access to resources that prevented them from being at-risk of hunger.

**Advocacy for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** is a key component in The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.

- ◆ In 2016, The Advocacy for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) successfully provided outreach and prepared applications for 9 schools with a total population of 7,408 children.

**The Youth Produce Project** distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to children and their families in targeted, food-insecure communities across Long Island.

- ◆ In 2016, The Youth Produce Project distributed approximately 44,000 pounds of healthy fruits and vegetables to over 1,300 children in 18 Long Island communities.

**The Island Harvest Giving Gardens** are vegetable gardens created to teach children—pre-k through high school— how to grow vegetables and compost kitchen waste. The gardens are used as hands on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum reinforcement.

- ◆ In 2016, The Giving Gardens taught over 1,000 children how to grow food at their schools.

**For more information and to support these programs, please contact us at**  
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