



THE LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*The Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue
Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEMPSTEAD, NY: Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund, gives Long Island Council of Churches \$60,000 grant.

The Long Island Council of Churches (LICC) recently received a \$60,000 grant from *Newsday Charities*, a McCormick Foundation Fund, to support its emergency food and family support programs throughout Long Island.

“As government funding continues to decline, Newsday’s support is especially critical,” said the Rev. Tom Goodhue, LICC’s Executive Director. “There’s been a dramatic increase in the number of guests coming to our Freeport and Hempstead food centers in the first two months of this year compared to last year at the same time, even though we were closed more days this year due to weather-related conditions,” Goodhue added.

“Last year we fed 500 more guests than we did in 2014, and this year the numbers are going to be considerably higher. In January and February alone, we fed 249 more guests than we did in the first two months of 2015,” said Wally Merna, Freeport Emergency Food Center Manager. He noted that the LICC is stocking more healthy food items like whole grains, whole wheat, fruits packed in light syrup or pear syrup, low sodium vegetables and meats, brown rice, etc. However, it costs considerably more to do so. Some of our churches and individual donors are helping by donating more nutritious foods. He added that this shift also requires that we provide nutritional education to our guests so they can identify healthy foods and make better nutritional choices. Like the proverbial horse and carriage, we can’t have one without the other. “Newsday’s generous grant makes this shift possible, Merna said. “It enables us to pay the higher prices for more nutritious, healthier food and provide the necessary education for our guests and to meet their other needs as well.”

The Long Island Council of Churches, the region’s largest ecumenical and interfaith organization, is a faith-based, non-profit emergency food and social service agency. For 47 years the LICC has brought together hundreds of faith communities to respond rapidly to the emergency needs of the least fortunate. The agency collaborates with more than 50 public and private health and social service agencies to provide emergency food and essential social services to Long Islanders in crisis. In 2015 the LICC fed 22,180 hungry Long Islanders 199,620 meals and provided additional family support services to another 12,200, including housing, utilities, heat, gas, prescriptions and transportation. Total numbers served exceeded 34,000.

For further information, please contact: The Rev. Tom Goodhue, Executive Director, 516-565-0290, ext. 206 or tomgoodhue@optonline.net, or Wally Merna, Freeport Emergency Food Center Manager, 516-868-4989 or liccfreeport@optonline.net

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