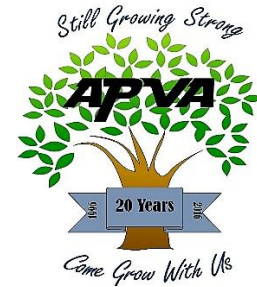


## APVA Monthly Spotlight



July 2016

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

**Alisha Summers, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Long Island Cares, Inc.**



### **How I became a Volunteer Coordinator:**

This summer, I will reach my fifth year with Long Island Cares, Inc. as their Coordinator of Volunteer Services. I was informed about Long Island Cares from a volunteer I was working with while participating in some local community work. I felt that the Volunteer Coordinator opportunity was right up my alley because I truly love to give back and help those in need and knew it would be amazing experience to work with those who enjoy giving back as much as I do. At Long Island Cares I oversee our volunteer based mobile pantry program which is a program that delivers meals to homebound seniors and veterans. I also train, coordinate, and manage all of the volunteers for our organization.

APVA has afforded me the wonderful opportunity to enhance my skills and approach of managing volunteers. I have found that by working with others in my field I have gained useful insight into how to improve the volunteer program at Long Island Cares.



### **Long Island Cares, Inc.:**

Long Island Cares is one of the region's most comprehensive hunger assistance organizations, serving thousands of individuals and families in need.

Our mission is to bring together all available resources for the benefit of the hungry on Long Island, and provide to the best of our ability for the humanitarian needs of our community. We provide food when and where it's needed, sponsor programs that promote self-sufficiency and educate the public about the causes and consequences of hunger on Long Island. Our vision is a hunger-free Long Island.

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Founded as the first food bank on Long Island, New York, in 1980 by the late singer, Grammy Award-winning songwriter and social activist Harry Chapin, our organization now provides nutritional food and support services for a network of more than 580 community-based member agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, child care programs, disability organizations, veterans' services programs and more.

### **Long Island Cares, Inc. Volunteer Mr. Richard Ames**

Mr. Ames has been volunteering with Long Island Cares for about 3 years. During that time, he has given himself endlessly to our mission, services and programs. He started as a driver for our mobile pantry; a program that operates bi-weekly delivering food to homebound seniors and disabled Veterans. Once he mastered that, he extended his support to our children nutrition programs, delivering meals and snacks to various kids cafés and backpack programs located throughout Long Island. And as if that was not enough, Mr. Ames volunteers weekly at our Huntington Station Humanitarian Center serving Veterans, military personnel, and their families on Military Appreciation Tuesdays. Mr. Ames goes above and beyond in every aspect of volunteering; ensuring the quality of service by delivering our children meals on time, helping our mobile pantry clients put their food orders into their home pantry, or bringing donuts and coffee weekly for our Veterans to enjoy while they come to use the services of our pantry

His care, concern and efforts to ensure that our clients are welcomed and feel important are evident in all his actions. Long Island Cares appreciates all that Mr. Ames does and are so grateful to have him be a part of our team!

