



THE LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*The Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue
Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEMPSTEAD, NY: The Long Island Community Foundation gives Long Island Council of Churches \$20,000 grant for its emergency food programs in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The Long Island Council of Churches (LICC) received a \$20,000 grant from The Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) to support its emergency food programs throughout Long Island.

“We’re most grateful to the Long Island Community Foundation for its generous support. Their support has helped us expand our hours at our new Riverhead location and convert our Hempstead satellite pantry into a full-fledged emergency food center where we can now feed more people and give them the food they need. We’re feeding nearly 250 guests a month in Hempstead and giving them enough food for three days,” said the Rev. Tom Goodhue, the LICC’s Executive Director. “In October of 2015 the Freeport and Hempstead Food centers fed a combined all-time high of 1,812,” Goodhue added.

“We’re seeing both an increase in the number of seniors and an increase in the number of families who have to come to us for food more than once a month,” said Freeport Emergency Food Center manager Wally Merna. He added that the Freeport food center fed 500 more in 2015 than in the previous year, including 161 more seniors.

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 9,722. Total numbers served exceeded 31,900.

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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