

Urgent need for food

Food pantries gear up for Thanksgiving feasts

By MARK NOLAN

The annual push to help hungry Long Islanders has an even greater sense of urgency. Food pantries across Long Island are in desperate need of donations in order to meet the Thanksgiving demand.

"Every food pantry needs help," said Rosa D'Anna of the Lighthouse Mission, a Patchogue-based outreach center that feeds 195,000 people a year and is preparing 1,200 baskets for poor families for Thanksgiving.

The Patchogue Council 725 Knights of Columbus is preparing a Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. for homeless and needy people in the community. Jim Addie of the Knights of Columbus said the organization jumped at the chance to help people. "That's what we do, we help the neighborhood," Addie said. "We find it to be very important. We're a

charitable organization and when we see people in our own neighborhood that need help, we help. That's why the guys put it all together."

Addie said the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes have gone to supermarkets and soup kitchens for donations for the Nov. 18 feast. They have reached out to local churches and food pantries to notify them of the event, and are expecting to feed at least 100 hungry people. Any food left over will be donated to local food pantries, Addie said.

At the Lighthouse Mission, D'Anna said volunteers are preparing for their Thanksgiving Day feast which will be served at noon (there will be a service at 11 a.m.). D'Anna said the mission is considering busing people in from nearby communities.

"Christmas I'm not worried about," D'Anna said. "We had toys left over from last year and this year

people are already calling left and right. It's the food area. Our warehouse manager said we're running out of food. We need to be there for the needy."

D'Anna said the six outreaches and the Patchogue mission are working to meet the Thanksgiving demand. She said rising costs such as gasoline and medical insurance are forcing families to choose between paying bills and putting food on the table. Because of that, D'Anna is hoping that more residents call to donate to the mission or any other food pantry.

"If people who have can just open up their hearts," D'Anna said. "The time can come when they don't have. I just feel that giving is always a blessing and God blesses back those who give."

To make a donation to the Lighthouse Mission, call 758-7584. ■

Concert to benefit Long Island Cares

Jen Chapin to headline benefit concert featuring local and nationally touring singer/songwriters

Enjoy some of the brightest stars in independent acoustic music and help fight hunger on Long Island at the Acoustic Long Island Winter Concert.

Acoustic Long Island, the number one acoustic podcast on iTunes, has partnered with the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts and Long Island Cares to present the concert event of the season, with the music of nationally touring singer/songwriters Jen Chapin, Chris Ayer, and Madi Diaz. But this concert's not just about enjoying great music—it's about relieving the very real problem of hunger in our own backyards, with a portion of the proceeds going directly to Long Island Cares.

Host Dave Dircks will kick off the evening with a Songwriter's Showcase of seven of the top local singer/songwriters on Long Island, including himself, John Flor, Rorie Kelly, *Miles to Dayton*, Bess Rogers, Jean-Paul Vest, and Martha Trachtenberg & Tom Griffith. The Showcase will be followed by three featured performers, for three full hours of acoustic heaven.

Acoustic Long Island is a weekly concert series produced by brothers Dave and Rob Dircks that features up-and-coming musical artists at historic Deepwells Mansion in Saint James. These live performances are recorded and shared with a larger online community in the form of a podcast—allowing thousands of listeners from around the globe to download the music, subscribe and listen each week. It has been the number one acoustic podcast on iTunes for two



Jen Chapin, Chris Ayer and Madi Diaz will perform at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts.

years, with listeners as far as Australia and Thailand.

Long Island Cares was founded in 1980 by the late singer/activist Harry Chapin in response to the immediate needs of hungry Long Islanders. It is continued today by his wife Sandy Chapin. In the years since Harry left us, Long Island Cares has become an organized force of caring, dedicated people who are making a difference in the fight against hunger on Long Island.

The Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts (PTPA) originally opened in 1923 and is the largest indoor performing arts center in Suffolk County. PTPA operates as a not-for-profit organization under the leadership of a volunteer board of directors and a small paid staff, plus a large and enthu-

siastic group of volunteers. The combination of magnificent building and generous volunteers has made the theatre a place with amazing energy.

Jen Chapin's music is urban folk—story songs that search for community and shared meaning, powered by the funk, soul and improvisation of the city. In the three years since releasing her critically-acclaimed debut with Hybrid Recordings, Linger, Jen Chapin has toured the East Coast, the West, the South and the Midwest, given TV performances ranging from the *CW Morning News* to *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and given birth to a baby boy. Along the way, she has released a fresh new album of 11 songs of desire and frustration (both personal and political), whimsy and hopefulness, *Ready*, and will soon be coming out with a new album of (mostly) cover songs entitled *Light of Mine*. Jen has been honored by the USA Songwriting Competition, appeared on stage with Bruce Springsteen, and opened up for Bruce Hornsby and *The Neville Brothers*. Her performances are powerful, spotlighting the world-class musicianship and rare chemistry of husband/acoustic bassist Stephan

Crump and guitarists Jamie Fox and Liberty Ellman.

Chris Ayer got his musical start singing along to an Elvis tape when he was 7 in his hometown of McLean, Virginia, and hit the road touring right after college. Based in Brooklyn, he's spent most of the past year traveling town to town, playing for whoever will listen, from street corners, to clubs, to Acoustic Long Island. His first full-length album, *This Is The Place*, was recorded in Nashville and produced by Jason Gantt.

Madi Diaz has been featured at the South by Southwest Festival and opened for Linda Ronstadt at the 2007 Newport Folk Festival. Her debut solo album, *Skin and Bone*, is filled with songs rich in precocious wisdom, unassuming poetry, and melodic sophistication. Diaz's powerful voice, both uniquely engaging and steeped in rock tradition, calls to mind such icons of Americana as Shawn Colvin, Sheryl Crow, and Patty Griffin.

The concert will take place on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$32, \$22 or \$12 and available at the Patchogue Theatre Box office, by phone at 207-1313 or online at www.PatchogueTheatre.com. ■

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit Us At ...

LongIslandAdvance.net

Log on each week for a look at what's new.



The Energy Saving Company
Swezey FUEL CO., INC.

24 Hour Service

Patchogue - Tel. 475-0270

SERVICE CONTRACTS • BUDGET PAYMENTS
INSTALLATIONS

Oil Heat Service