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## LI Cares & Theatre Team Up For Concert

By: Barbara LaMonica  
12/19/2007

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**Every day, thousands of Long Islanders go hungry and, for decades, Long Island Cares, Inc., The Harry Chapin Food Bank has been a resource for residents.**

To aid in the fight against hunger, an "Acoustic Long Island Winter Concert" will be held at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts on February 9. Curtain time for the three-hour event is 7:30 p.m. 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 host the benefit concert. Calling the fundraiser the "winter event of the season," Christopher Capobianco, director of communications for the Patchogue Theatre, said all proceeds will benefit Long Island Cares.

Started in 1980, Long Island Cares was founded by the late songwriter and activist, Harry Chapin. His cause was continued by his wife, Sandy Chapin. According to a 2005 study by Long Island Cares and Island Harvest, the amount of people turning to food pantries and soup kitchens has increased dramatically. In recent years, the number of people visiting food pantries is up 67%, while the numbers of those turning to soup kitchens and shelters have increased by 54% and 32%, respectively. Furthermore, 47% of food pantries and 32% of soup kitchens across Long Island have been forced to turn clients away due to lack of food resources.

The February concert is an attempt to combat this trend. Host David Dircks will open the evening with a songwriter's showcase of seven of the top local singers/songwriters, including himself, John Flor, Rorie Kelly, Bess Rogers, John-Paul Vest, Martha Trachtenberg and Tom Griffith, and the group Miles to Dayton. These acts will be followed by featured performers Jen Chapin (Harry Chapin's daughter), Chris Ayer and Madi Diaz. "The concert is going to be a great musical event, but it really is all about fighting hunger," said Capobianco, who is hoping that the Patchogue Theatre's first fundraiser for Long Island Cares turns into an annual event.

To obtain tickets to the winter concert call 207-1313, or visit [www.patchoguetheatre.com](http://www.patchoguetheatre.com). Those unable to attend the concert but who wish to contribute to Long Island Cares can send checks payable to Long Island Cares, Inc., 10 Davids Drive, Hauppauge, NY 11788, or visit [licares.org](http://licares.org).

Long Island Cares also is sponsoring a "Holiday Tribute Gift" project, where donors may make contributions in someone's name. The gift recipient, in turn, will receive a personalized card notifying them a gift was made in their name to the food bank. The recipient's name and address must be included, and donations may be made by calling 582-3663, ext. 105. A \$30 gift will feed a family of four for two days, and a \$105 gift will feed a family of four for one week.

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