



*The Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.*

Organized 1886

"Proud Hosts of the 2010 F.A.S.N.Y. Convention"



February 2005

Dear Chief/Fire Prevention Officer:

The Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association in cooperation with Long Island Cares will be holding a food drive during Fire Prevention Week, October 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Long Island Cares was founded by Long Island native singer/activist Harry Chapin in response to Hunger and Poverty on Long Island. According to a recent survey by America's Second Harvest, more than 50,000 people come every week to member agencies of Long Island Cares for food assistance. Among them are:

- o The child too young to understand but old enough to feel the pain of hunger.
- o The elderly who have to choose between keeping warm, getting enough to eat, or receiving medical care.
- o The unemployed or underemployed who still have to provide for their family.
- o The person with disabilities who can't get a job and has no place to go.

Hunger on Long Island is growing at an alarming rate. Long Island Cares' goals are to provide emergency food assistance where and when it is needed and to sponsor community programs that help families achieve self-sufficiency.

During fire prevention week, more specifically during your department's open house we ask that you have a spot in your firehouse for the collection of non-perishable food. Barrels will be provided by Long Island Cares. The food collected can either be picked up, or Long Island Cares will provide you with a list of food pantries, senior nutrition sites, and shelters in your community where you can deliver your collected food.

We strongly urge and encourage **ALL** departments in the county to participate in this important cause. Enclosed is some supplemental information regarding Long Island Cares. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the Patchogue Fire Department at 207-9423.

Let's work together to make this a success.

Firematically yours,

*Eugene Perry Jr.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, SCVFA