



>> PANDEMIC UPDATE <<

Dear Friends of CAST,

As you know, Southold Town has been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. CAST took action immediately to meet the needs of the community during this health and economic crisis. In early March, CAST called an Emergency Food Security meeting with several stakeholders to develop a response plan.

We are seeing a tremendous increase in need and expect that need will keep growing as this crisis continues and more people are unemployed. Our food expense has increased from approximately \$1,200 weekly to approximately \$7,000 weekly. We are serving hundreds of families at our Greenport office and new satellite locations, providing about 5,000 meals every week.

CAST has started receiving a large food delivery from Sysco weekly. Two pods were donated for food storage, and Slow Food East donated a tent for safe distribution from our parking lot. Thankfully, many volunteers have kindly offered their time to help us meet the tremendous need on the North Fork.

The response from our community has been overwhelmingly generous. I receive multiple calls daily from people in the community who recognize the important role CAST is playing in Southold Town at this time and want to thank us. Now I want to thank all of you for your continuing support of your neighbors during this crisis. CAST could not meet the unprecedented need without you!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy A. Demeroto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy A. Demeroto

Here are some of the ways CAST is meeting the expanded needs of our community:

FOOD PANTRY / FEED-A-KID DISTRIBUTION

- 1. Food Pantry:** Increased service from bi-monthly to weekly distribution for households.
- 2. Mobile Food Pantry:** Expanded delivery to include quarantined or homebound families.
- 3. CAST provides gift cards:** for the IGA and local restaurants to families in need to ensure access to nutritious meals and support local businesses during this crisis.
- 4. Feed-a-Kid Emergency Program:** Provides food weekly for children who depend on free or reduced-price meals in school. CAST partnered with the First Presbyterian Church in Southold and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Greenport to offer satellite distribution sites.
- 5. CAST has partnered with local farms:** Deep Roots Farm, Harbes Farm, Sang Lee Farm, Terry Farm, and Treiber Farm.

PREPARED MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- 1. CAST has partnered with local restaurants:**
We provide regular take-out meals to community members in need: American Beech, CJ's American Grill, Touch of Venice, Wayside Market, 1943 Pizza, Maroni's, and Green Hill Kitchen.
- 2. CAST has partnered with churches:** North Fork Episcopal Ministries, Breaking Bread Outreach and CAST provide take-out Sunday Suppers at Holy Trinity in Greenport. First Presbyterian Church Southold and MQV Church (Iglesia Mas Que Vencedores) provide prepared meals during the week at CAST.

EMERGENCY / BENEFIT ASSISTANCE

- 1. Emergency assistance** applications have significantly increased and CAST continues to provide support for families with urgent needs that impact health and safety, such as heat, electricity, medical and housing.
- 2. CAST is helping clients with benefit application** assistance.
- 3. CAST is distributing face masks** to the underserved population.

SUPPORT CAST TODAY!





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INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

1. CAST created and disbursed information on COVID-19 safety protocols and testing in English and Spanish.
2. CAST created a COVID-19 Food Security webpage providing information on our response programs and services, and volunteer opportunities. castsoutholdtown.org/COVID-19
3. CAST collaborates with local schools, government, libraries, Stony Brook-ELIH and civic associations to ensure families have access to adequate nutrition and information relating to COVID-19.
4. CAST posts awareness campaigns in English and Spanish on social media, text messaging, and in printed handouts to ensure people know how to receive the food relief they need.

GRANTS AND OTHER SUPPORT

1. Bank of America grant: \$100,000
2. Long Island Community Foundation grant: \$10,000
3. BNB Bank grant: \$5,000
4. Small Business Administration grant for the Paycheck Protection Program: \$45,700
5. **Go Fund Me** site started by former Greenport Mayor Dave Kapell has raised over \$80,000.
6. **YouGiveGoods** drive was started to ship donated goods directly to CAST. It has generated over 2,000 pounds of food.
7. CAST has received generous donations (food and financial) from many individuals, businesses, organizations and family foundations.
8. We are grateful to the nearly 100 volunteers who have joined the CAST team on the front lines to ensure that our neighbors do not go hungry.
9. We thank American Beech, The Greenporter Hotel, and 1943 Pizza for sharing freezer space with us.

MEDIA COVERAGE

1. [East End Beacon](#)
2. [Suffolk Times](#)
3. [News 12](#)
4. [WEHM Radio](#)
5. [North Fork Patch](#)