



MEET
David Herold
WHO CARES? HE DOES! | BY JEAN DANIELS, CREATIVE WRITER

COVER STORY

*“To know is to care, to care is to act,
to act is to make a difference.”*

— HARRY CHAPIN



Singer, Songwriter, Philanthropist

Empathy, reliability, authenticity, generosity—all big feelings wrapped up in the power of caring. Caring is how resident and Attorney David Herold measures his success. He’s been turning his compassion and convictions into tangible action as a champion for Long Island Cares/The Harry Chapin Foodbank (LIC), working to end food insecurity on Long Island.

“Around Thanksgiving 2006, I read an article about food insecurity and its impact on children. The story mentioned Long Island Cares/The Harry Chapin Foodbank,” says David. “The article really touched me. I also felt a connection to the Chapin family as a fellow Huntingtonian and to their son Jason. He attended school with my brother-in-law Phil and was a member of Phil and my sister Karen’s wedding party, where we became acquainted.”

The USDA defines food insecurity as “a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life.” According to LIC, at any given time, 230,000 Long Islanders are facing food insecurity. Of that, an estimated 65,000 are children and 26,000 seniors. Would you be surprised to learn that the face of food insecurity is no different than the reflection in your mirror? It could very well be

you or your neighbor who is suddenly struggling due to job loss, an accident or health crisis, mental disability, defunded government assistance, or the rising costs of groceries. From families to seniors to veterans and more, food insecurity does not discriminate by age, ethnicity, or economics.

Compelled to act on his pulled heartstrings and being a pragmatic attorney, David decided due diligence was in order and checked the nonprofit’s fiscal health. A good barometer is when at least 75% of funding is spent directly on the mission. At the time, LIC put approximately 92% of their donations into programs versus administrative efforts. “I was so impressed that I sat down and wrote a letter of introduction with my included donation asking how I could help.”

When LIC contacted David, he expected humble beginnings by volunteering to fill food boxes. Little did he know that his impressive law background and community connections warranted grander plans. “They asked me to work on their fundraising gala, finding donors from the business community and offering up distinguished honoree candidates. Networking is a necessary skill as an attorney and partner. What they needed was in my lane, so I was excited to help.” His inaugural gala volunteer effort was a success. It turned into more than a decade of volunteer service on the board as the nonprofit’s fundraising and development chairman. “My first honoree happened to be my law partner, Howard Stein, who is the managing partner of our firm now. He knocked it out of the park.” David himself is an honored recipient of the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award, and today, he proudly presides as president of the board of directors.

LIC distributes over 10,000,000 pounds of food annually in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, supplying nearly 400 member agencies. Besides its principal office and warehouse in Hauppauge, LIC operates five satellite pantries: Huntington Station, Lindenhurst, Freeport, Bethpage, and Hampton Bays, with a sixth center currently under construction in Valley Stream. Regularly pioneering new approaches to hunger relief, programs include food assistance; job help and personalized referral services for veterans; mobile food services to homebound seniors and the disabled; Baxter’s Pet Pantry feeding four-legged family members; youth programs for summer food service, a mobile school pantry, weekend meals, and a breakfast café; nutrition education workshops, and so much more. Realizing that hunger in America, especially on Long Island, is a highly complex multi-tiered societal issue, The Chapin Center for Public Policy advocacy wing encourages legislative petitioning for state-funded anti-hunger programs.

David moved to Huntington in 1980. “Except for my four years at college, I’m a 43-year resident.” After graduating from St. John’s University School of Law in 1991, he married and bought his first house on Woolsey Street, where he and his wife raised two daughters, Emma and Mia, both past volunteers for LIC. He currently resides in Wincoma and has been an attorney and partner at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP for 27 years, representing institutional lenders who finance multi-family and commercial properties.

Long before David’s inspired philanthropic leanings, there was Harry Chapin. A music icon of the 1970s and beloved folk/rock artist, Chapin was known for Hot 100 Billboard hits like



David with his daughter Mia.



What we do is not a handout. It is a hand up for those who need it when it counts.”

Cats In The Cradle and *Taxi*. As a traveling troubadour, he emulated his hero activists Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, John Lennon, and Allard Lowenstein. Chapin’s songs reflected folks across big cities and small-town America, like firemen, taxi drivers, and factory workers. And during those travels, he saw a rising human need, marshaling fans into a force for good. Concerts turned into fundraisers. He lobbied for hunger relief legislation. Supported arts programs. In 1980, among his many campaigns to fight hunger, he founded The Harry Chapin Foodbank. Sadly, in ‘81, Chapin was tragically killed in an auto accident. The entertainment world lost a star, but his humanitarian legacy lived on when Sandy Chapin, Harry’s widow, took up the mantle to keep the mission and vision for a hunger-free Long Island center stage.

Trivia buffs may be interested to know that Sandy co-wrote “Cat’s in the Cradle,” which began as a poem she penned for Harry. This October marks the 50th anniversary of the track’s release. Word on the street is that filmmaker Rick Korn, producer of the Harry Chapin documentary

“When in Doubt, Do Something,” is in production on a documentary about the seminal song and its symbolic impact.

With inflated food prices showing no signs of easing, LIC is seeing more folks reach out for help for the first time in their lives. “What we do is not a handout. It is a hand up for those who need it when it counts,”

says David. His personal ethos as board president is to “work hard and care harder” to

achieve the mission’s goal. “I am thankful for the board’s trust in my abilities, inspired daily by dedicated employees and volunteers, and truly feel humbled to be in the company of compassionate past presidents such as David Cassaro and our late founder, Harry Chapin. I only hope to measure up and make our community proud.”

Wondering how you can make a difference? Find out more at www.licares.org today.



Have a story idea? Want to be featured? Nominate a neighbor? Scan here and tell us more. We are looking forward to hearing from you!