



Contact:

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**The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. is the recipient of the
Bank of America 2011 Elena M Perez Memorial Grant
November 4, 2011**

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) is proud to announce that they are the 2011 recipient of the Bank of America Elena M Perez Memorial Grant. On November 2, 2011, LIAAC joined other not for profits and community leaders at the seventh annual Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards celebration, hosted by the Bank of America at the NYIT deSeversky Mansion.

This prestigious award was established “in honor of Elena M Perez, a Bank of America associate who passed away in 2007. This grant is given to a nonprofit organization on Long Island that exemplifies Elena’s dedication to and commitment for the betterment of the Long Island community.”

In accepting the Elena M Perez Memorial Grant on behalf of the agency, Dr. Gail Barouh, who has served as the President and CEO of the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. for the past 25 years noted:

“Elena was affiliated with LIAAC for over 10 years, serving as an esteemed board member, and remained an unwavering leader, a strident representative of her community and a consistent constructive influence. Elena took a tremendous risk by getting involved with the HIV/AIDS epidemic at a time when few others in the financial industry would get involved or touch the subject matter. Because of her belief in the cause, and her compassion, she had been instrumental in helping those individuals in our area who were truly in need of help, especially the Hispanic and Black communities, who were hit the hardest.”

LIAAC will use the financial support provided through this grant to augment our Nutrition for Life Program, a home delivered meal program that serves people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, improving the overall nutritional health of our HIV+ clients and their families by increasing the amount of nutritious food items we are able to distribute. Furthermore, this funding will support our annual Holiday Food Drive, guaranteeing that LIAAC will be able to meet the request of every HIV+ client in need and ensure that they will be able to provide and enjoy a traditional holiday meal for themselves and their family during the holiday season.

In addition, in tribute to Elena, who believed you can make a difference-not only with financial support, but also by strengthening the fabric of the communities and neighborhoods where we work and live, LIAAC has established the Elena Perez Food Drive. This project is designed to raise the awareness in the youth of Long Island of the needs of people in their own communities by involving them in a community service project that will help us reach a common goal of eliminating food insecurity in some of Long Island neediest neighborhoods.

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LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION FOR AIDS CARE, INC.

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