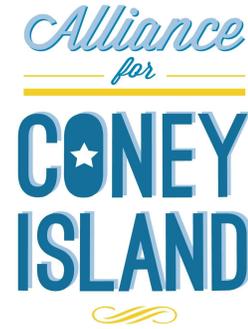


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For Immediate Release:

Coney Island Hosted Free Annual Thanksgiving Meal for the Community

Coney Island, November 25, 2020 – On Wednesday, November 25th, the Coney Island Gospel Assembly hosted their annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway in collaboration with the Alliance for Coney Island, Gargiulo's Restaurant, La Tombola Restaurant, Luna Park in Coney Island, Councilmember Mark Treyger, and State Senator Diane Savino. For over six decades, the Coney Island Gospel Assembly has graciously served a traditional Thanksgiving meal to those in need and this year, in particular, saw an unprecedented amount of people facing food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With additional support from A&J Produce, the Brooklyn Cyclones, Caffè Sacco, Coney Island Prep, Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park, Kings Highway Bakery, iStar, Liberty Coca-Cola, Mets Giving, MTM Fuel Service, Nathan's Famous, and the Rotary Club of Verrazano, the Coney Island Gospel Assembly and volunteers were able to hand out over 1,000 delicious Thanksgiving meals to-go consisting of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, dessert and more at Gargiulo's newest addition, *La Tombola Restaurant*, located on the Boardwalk at West 21st Street which is slated to open in 2021.

"It is an honor to continue our tradition of over 60 years of serving Coney Island's neediest. The pandemic has made this event more important than ever and we are glad to partner with many local stakeholders to bring Coney Island a tasty hot homemade meal" said **Pr. Constance Hulla of the Coney Island Gospel Assembly**.

"We are proud to collaborate with the Coney Island Gospel Assembly and our local businesses to provide a meal during this unprecedented time. This meal is always a beautiful unifying effort, but this year more than ever we hope it provides a glimmer of hope when so many are food insecure or cannot be with their loved ones" said **Alexandra Silversmith, Executive Director of the Alliance for Coney Island**.

"Thanksgiving has always been a special day for me and my family! The Coney Island Gospel Assembly has taught us how to share all our gifts and extend them to our neighbors. We thank Pastor Connie and all of our partners in Coney Island for helping make this event possible." said **Nino Russo, Co-Owner of Gargiulo's Restaurant and La Tombola Restaurant**.

"The devastating effects of COVID-19 are profound in our community. We know that this year is uniquely challenging for our neighbors and we are grateful that we can continue our tradition of giving back to our community by providing Thanksgiving meals." said **Alessandro Zamperla, President and CEO of Central Amusement International Inc.**

"This is the time of year when we pause to give thanks for our family, friends, and all of the good things in life, and to give back to our community and neighbors. This year, it is especially vital that we ensure that

no one goes hungry during the pandemic. I'm proud to partner with the Alliance for Coney Island, Coney Island Gospel Assembly, La Tombola and the Russo family, and many other local leaders to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for Coney Island residents. This Thanksgiving will be much different from normal, but I am thankful that our community has continued to come together to ensure that our neighbors have a celebratory meal, safely. I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving," said **Council Member Mark Treyger (Bensonhurst, Coney Island, Gravesend, Sea Gate)**.

"This year's holiday season will be extremely different and difficult for many. It is my pleasure to partner with the Alliance for Coney Island to help provide our neighbors with a small sense of normalcy and security this Thanksgiving" **said NYS Senator, Diane Savino**.

Alliance for Coney Island

The not-for-profit Alliance for Coney Island, Inc. is a private-public partnership dedicated to continuing the year-round revitalization of Coney Island. The Alliance represents local businesses, nonprofits, and the community, with support from the New York City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President, and New York City Economic Development Corporation. More info at www.AllianceforConeyIsland.org.



Photo courtesy of Alliance for Coney Island



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