

## New Initiative Brings Fresh Produce To L.I.C.

by Annmarie Fertoli, Assistant Editor

06/26/2008



**A new food initiative pairing local farmers with the community is bringing fresh produce to Long Island City.**  
*(Annmarie Fertoli)*

A new initiative pairing local farmers with the community is bringing fresh produce to Long Island City this summer.

The Jacob Riis Community Settlement House, located at 10-25 41st Ave., is now home to a Community Supported Agriculture initiative, which will bring fresh food to the neighborhood once a week for the next several months.

The Long Island City CSA, which began operating earlier this month, is the result of a collaboration between several organizations, including the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, Just Food,

Hunger Action Network of New York State and the East River Development Alliance. It was officially unveiled at a press conference in front of Jacob Riis on Monday.

Members of the community pay a fee to join the CSA, and volunteer hours to help support it. While staff will work with the community to support the CSA this year, the goal is to have the community take over its operation in subsequent years.

“It gives you a sense of feeling empowered,” said Bill Newlin, executive director of Jacob Riis. “That you are part of the production line to some degree.”

The Long Island City CSA is part of the Craig Murphy Anti-Hunger Partnership, which is also bringing local produce to area food pantries and soup kitchens.

“Obesity and hunger are flipsides of the same malnutrition coin,” said Joel Berg, executive director of NYCCA, noting the importance of community access to fresh food. Councilman Eric Gioia added that the CSA is “an important step forward.”

There is currently a waiting list to become a member of the CSA. Membership fees are based on household income and the CSA does accept food stamps.

To find out more about becoming a member, contact Danielle Seidita at (212) 741-8192 ext. 5.