

LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Medical prescription assistance is one of our clients' most chronic and pressing needs. Although about 55% of our clients are the working poor, they typically work at low-paying jobs that do not provide health insurance. Because the majority pay more than 50% of their total earnings for housing, they haven't enough left for food, medical and other basic needs.

According to U.S. Census 2000 figures, 287,118 or more than 10% of Long Islanders are uninsured. Without health insurance to cover their prescription costs, our clients cannot afford essential medications. If we cannot help them, they and their children go without.

An increasing number of World Trade Center clients are also coming to us for prescription assistance. WTC disaster relief experts predicted that such needs would surface several years after 9/11. They include rescue and recovery workers whose health was seriously compromised at Ground Zero in the months immediately following 9/11. Many are uninsured but have long-term mental health and upper respiratory problems for which they urgently need medication. A single prescription can cost between \$200 and \$500.

Others include diabetics, asthmatics, and even a client living in a homeless shelter who needs a prescription for antibiotics or she will be ejected from the shelter because she's contagious.

If you can contribute to our prescription assistance program and/or would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact us at 516-565-0290, e-mail us at: licc@optonline.net or contact us at:

Long Island Council of Churches
1644 Denton Green
Hempstead, NY 11550

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