

# Dinner Is Service

*By Kitty Merrill*

Suffolk County Community College's culinary arts students will prepare about 200 dinners for Community Action Southold Town's Greenport food pantry in what has become an annual and happy undertaking for the college's culinary program and its students.

This is the first year Suffolk's culinary program has worked with CAST, a not-for-profit that helps low income residents in Southold Town meet basic needs in the areas of nutrition, employment, energy, and education. Since 1965 CAST has been as a safety net for Southold Town families from Laurel to Orient Point, including Fisher's Island. The majority of CAST's funding comes from the generosity of the community.

This marks the ninth year Suffolk County Community College students and faculty have happily volunteered their culinary expertise to support the holiday cooking. The dinner preparation will take place on November 22 beginning at 8 AM at the Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts & Hospitality Center on East Main Street in Riverhead. Cooking

and packaging the meals will run through noon.

"We celebrate Thanksgiving by cooking and sharing our favorite foods, being with the ones we love, and giving thanks for all that we have. Our college and students, faculty, and staff enjoy giving back to our community," said Suffolk County Community College president Dr. Shaun L. McKay.

About 40 students and faculty chefs from the college's culinary

program will prepare the meal with ingredients provided by CAST. They'll work with more than 20 turkeys, 100 pounds of mashed potatoes, 50 pounds of sweet potatoes, 80 pounds of stuffing, 25 pounds of assorted vegetables, and 20 each of apple and pumpkin pies. And, of course, gravy – more than five gallons of it.

The SCCC culinary arts degree is designed for students interested in careers in baking, culinary, and hotel operations.



*Independent/Courtesy SCCC*

**Culinary arts students prepare Thanksgiving dinners for food pantry clients.**

