

# Connecticut Food News

August 2010 Volume 19, Number 2

## From Giving to Receiving: Economy Turns Donors Into Recipients

Henry isn't your typical boy. Instead of action figures, video games and toys, he decided last year to ask his family and friends to bring nonperishable food items as gifts for his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Henry donated the food he collected—his birthday gifts—to Master's Manna in Wallingford, which operates a food pantry, clothes closet, soup kitchen and resource center, including computer lab and dental/medical clinic. Henry had heard about the food pantry through the K-Kids, a Kiwanis group at a local elementary school that collected socks for Master's Manna.

But even before Henry could celebrate his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, he and his family got to know Master's Manna in a different way. His parents walked into Master's Manna this year, not as donors, but as recipients.

Henry's family is now among the 300 families that Master's Manna serves every week. In 2009, Master's Manna saw 1,636 families come through its doors seeking help.

"It just happened this year. They are shell-shocked. They've never had to look for assistance," Cheryl Bedore, president of Master's Manna, said of Henry's parents. "When the doors open (to the food pantry) you can almost feel the desperation. They thought at this point in their lives, they would be pretty settled."

Henry's parents were both employed. Mom worked at an insurance company, while dad worked at a medical supplies firm. As a result of the flagging economy, Henry's parents saw their full-time hours reduced to part-time, resulting in the loss of employment benefits.

The situation that Henry and his parents now face isn't atypical. Similar stories are being reported across the food-assistance network in Connecticut.

"What we're seeing now is the underemployed—the people who were used to working that 40-hour workweek. We are serving people who are now working 32 hours a week or 35 hours a week who lost their benefits," Bedore said.

*continued on page 7*

*Editor's Note: The name of the food-assistance recipient has been changed to protect his privacy.*



## Feeding America: More Children in Connecticut Are Hungry

One child in six doesn't have enough to eat in Connecticut, according to a national study released in July by Feeding America, the national network of food banks.

According to the study, titled *Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2006-2008*, 15.9 percent of Connecticut children under the age of 18 are hungry or at risk of hunger. That's more than 100,000 children.

"During the timeline of the study, we have undergone a horrific recession. We have seen over 100,000 people lose their jobs in this recession," said Peter M. Gioia, vice president and economist at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), the state's largest business organization with 10,000 members.

"The impact of the job loss and the poor economy had an impact on many families; and unfortunately, there are likely to be families with children going into this awful category based on those economic and job conditions," Gioia added. "It's important we improve those conditions to help these children."

The study showed Connecticut's child food insecurity rate increased 2.9 percent from last year. That jump landed Connecticut among the top 10 states with the highest increases in the rates of child food insecurity. Connecticut was the only state in the Northeast to be included in that top 10 list.

*continued on page 2*



Child Food Insecurity in the United States: 2006-2008

A 2008 study by Feeding America found that 15.9 percent of children under the age of 18 in Connecticut are hungry or at risk of hunger.

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## FUNDRAISING NUGGETS

*Thank you to the following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations that made donations of \$5,000 and more from November 16, 2009, through May 31, 2010.*

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Wakefern Food Corp., Check Out Hunger  
Webster Bank  
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Whole Foods Market

## FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

“Check Out Hunger” netted Connecticut Food Bank \$59,216 in donations from customers of the **New England ShopRite, Price Rite, Food Emporium** and **A&P** grocery stores. Shoppers at these stores were asked in the fall of 2009 to add \$1, \$3 and \$5 tags to their grocery bills to benefit hunger-relief efforts.

**Junior League of Greater New Haven** hosted its second annual “**Super Saturday**” Food Drive on Feb. 6 at Stop & Shop in North Haven. The food drive capitalized on the increased foot traffic at the grocery store as football fans prepared for the Super Bowl Sunday showdown. The Junior League raised \$350 and 1,947 pounds of food.



**Peapod by Stop & Shop** donated \$5,890 to Connecticut Food Bank as part of its “**Refer-a-Friend**” program during the holidays. Under the program, Peapod donated \$10 to regional food banks for each customer who referred a friend to its service.

In 2009, Connecticut Food Bank distributed more than 18 million pounds of food through its food-assistance network. That amount of food, up by about 16.6 percent from 2008, represented the largest amount of food handled by Connecticut Food Bank in its 28-year history.

**Tyson Foods** delivered about 20,000 pounds of much-needed, protein-rich food to Connecticut Food Bank on May 19 as part of the “**WeCanEndThis.com**” Digital Can Drive. The 15-day digital can drive, held in March, rewarded people who committed to do their part to end hunger by donating a digital can of food to the state of their choice. The top 10 states with the most digital cans won a truckload of real food.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This summer has been a challenging season. First, we were faced with a food shortage that prompted us to send out a public plea for help, a plea that we rarely send out. Second, we received news from a Feeding America report that more children in our state know the cruel reality of hunger. And third, we continue to hear about men, women and children in our communities struggling to keep food on their tables.



But in the midst of those challenges, we find hope in the grace and generosity of the people we serve and the supporters who share our conviction that food is a basic human right and hunger in our communities is unacceptable.

In June, we sent out the plea for help after we saw our food supply dwindle as food donations dropped and the demand for food assistance continued to be high. Last summer, our food supply was buoyed by a one-time \$593,000 federal allocation to help address the growing need after the recession pushed thousands of Connecticut residents into financial insecurity. That one-time allocation for additional food is no longer available, yet many people who were hurting from the recession last year are still hurting today.

After we sent out the plea for help, we saw a great outpouring of support, including People’s United Community Foundation, which gave a \$20,000 gift for our summer distribution. As a result, we purchased food to help supplement the supply we provide to the 650 food-assistance programs we serve.

Then came the news we long suspected: More children in our state are struggling with hunger, specifically one child in six, as compared to one child in eight last year. Sometimes, news of this kind makes us think our fight against hunger is a never-ending battle.

But we are reminded of the successes, such as the family we wrote about last year. Paul had lost his job in the mortgage industry. After months of being unemployed and depleting his 401(k) plan to pay for his family’s expenses, Paul eventually ran out of options. He went to TEEG’s food pantry in North Grosvenordale to seek help for his family, including three children between 8 and 17 years old. He knew about TEEG from helping his church pack holiday baskets for the food pantry.

We have now heard that Paul found a job. Instead of pushing forward and not looking back, he and his family called TEEG this past holiday season to help another family struggling through a difficult time. Paul’s family “adopted” a family and gave gifts to that family’s children so that they did not have to go without during the holidays.

It is through the grace and generosity of people like Paul—and you—that we find inspiration and resolve to continue our work of alleviating hunger one person at a time, one family at a time and one neighborhood at a time.

*Nancy L. Carrington*

Nancy L. Carrington, Chief Executive Officer

### More Connecticut Children Are Hungry *continued from page 1*

“It’s a top 10 list that we don’t want to be part of, but it’s a reality that we must deal with in Connecticut. We must do something to turn this around. No child should go hungry in our communities,” Connecticut Food Bank Chief Executive Officer Nancy L. Carrington said. “This study underscores the importance of child nutrition programs, and we at Connecticut Food Bank are trying to do as much as we can to be part of the solution, but we must do more and we must do better for our children.”

The Food Bank expanded its *Kids’ Backpack Program* in the past school year and plans to reach more children in this school year. At the end of the 2009–2010 school year, the program served 1,300 students in more than 55 schools in Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven and Windham counties.

The *Kids’ Backpack Program*, which runs during the school year, provides youngsters identified as “at risk” by personnel of participating schools with child-friendly, nutritious food the children can consume during the weekend.

Also this summer, the Food Bank held its annual *Summer Suppers* program, which provided late afternoon food to youngsters who had no access to school meals while school wasn’t in session.

The Food Bank, in partnership with End Hunger Connecticut! and other hunger-relief and social service organizations, supported the *Act Concerning Children in the Recession*. This landmark state legislation will help alleviate hunger and potentially bring in more than \$8.4 million in federal funding to Connecticut by coordinating information and increasing outreach

*continued on page 3*

## William F. D'Aquila Jr.: Will an End to Hunger

**W**illiam F. D'Aquila Jr., a quiet, unassuming, and compassionate man, knew for years that there were people in Connecticut who struggled with hunger and needed help.

He gave modestly but regularly to Connecticut Food Bank for more than a decade, supporting the organization's mission of alleviating hunger. He also gave to other charities, such as orphanages and an area soup kitchen.

"He just felt that there are a lot of people out there who need the Food Bank," said his cousin, Salvatore D'Aquila. "He was interested in helping people."

William D'Aquila showed his generosity even after his death, leaving Connecticut Food Bank more than \$66,100 from his life insurance policy.

"Mr. D'Aquila's thoughtfulness in naming us as beneficiary left me speechless. A gift of this size will make a tremendous difference in our efforts," said Janet Kniffin, Connecticut Food Bank's Chief Development Officer. "This gift will give us the resources to provide more than 220,000 meals to people in need."

D'Aquila, 57, of East Haddam, died Nov. 10, 2009, at his home following a brief illness. He was the son of the late William F. and Angelina (DeLorenzo) D'Aquila. The younger William D'Aquila had lived in East Haddam most of his life and helped manage DeLorenzo's Family Stores. He is survived by an uncle, an aunt and many cousins.

"He was an entrepreneur," Salvatore D'Aquila said, remembering his cousin fondly. "He watched the stock market on a daily basis and he developed a few pieces of property."

Salvatore D'Aquila wasn't surprised by his cousin's gift.

"What he did, it touched my heart. I told my wife that my uncle and his mother would have been very happy and proud. He was a real caring person," Salvatore D'Aquila said. "People should learn from Billy and realize there is a need out there. There are starving people out there and some good can be done."

Leaving a charitable gift in your will or naming Connecticut Food Bank as a beneficiary of your IRA, pension plan or life insurance policy is a good way to contribute to the fight against hunger, Salvatore D'Aquila said. A planned gift can help Connecticut Food Bank secure and distribute food and grocery products to people in need and raise public awareness about hunger in Connecticut for years to come.

Without a will, your property, money, belongings and finances are settled according to state laws, not according to your wishes. When you have a will, you have control over your assets. You can distribute them to the people and the causes you care about.

With a little planning today, you can protect the well-being of your loved ones and leave a gift of hope for the next generation.

For more information about making a planned gift to Connecticut Food Bank, please contact Janet Kniffin at (203) 469-5000 ext. 303 or [jkniffin@ctfoodbank.org](mailto:jkniffin@ctfoodbank.org).



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## more FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

On May 8, the **National Association of Letter Carriers'** 18th annual "**Stamp Out Hunger**" Food Drive, the nation's largest single-day food drive, collected 33,725 pounds of food for Connecticut Food Bank from postal customers in Bridgeport, East Haven, Hamden, Stratford and Waterbury.

**Adam Cherry** of Southbury used his pitching arm to "**Strike Out Hunger**," and raised \$4,757 for



Connecticut Food Bank in 2010. Cherry, a pitcher for Pomperaug High School's varsity baseball team, collected monetary pledges for every batter he struck out during the season. He struck out 67 batters—17 more than last year, when he first launched the campaign.

More than 400 people attended the 21st annual **Taste of the Nation-New Haven** on May 19 at the Yale Commons, located in Woolsey Hall on the Yale Campus. More than 40 restaurants, wine, beer and cocktail purveyors participated. The event benefited Connecticut Food Bank and other regional and national efforts to end childhood hunger.

About 200 students from 15 schools and 15 architectural firms participated in the ninth annual **Construction**, sponsored by the **Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects**. During the event, held from May 15 through May 20 at the Connecticut Science Center, students and teachers teamed up with architects to create structures from 42,343 cans and boxes of food. The food ultimately was donated to local hunger-relief efforts. Connecticut Food Bank received 16,396 pounds of food from the event.



**Bridgeport Rotary Club** partnered with Barnum Festival Parade and Ringmaster Tom Santa for the second annual "Family to Family Food Drive." People at the June 27 parade donated more than 900 pounds of food and nearly \$4,000 to support the Greater Bridgeport Area.

### More Connecticut Children Are Hungry *continued from page 2*

for federal feeding and nutrition programs for children. *(Please see related story on page 7.)*

Connecticut Food Bank, through the Food Research and Action Center and Feeding America, has also advocated for the passage of the federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. Every five years, Congress reauthorizes the programs that help feed our children, such as the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Food Care Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Carrington said Feeding America's child food insecurity report highlighted the vital importance of approving a new Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act that would strengthen the programs that feed our children. The federal legislation is currently before Congress.

"Research over the past 12 years shows conclusively that food insecurity and hunger are serious threats to children's health, growth and development, and may even harm young children's brain architecture," said John Cook, the nationally-recognized researcher who conducted the Feeding America study.

The Feeding America report, funded by ConAgra Foods Foundation, was based on the recent 2009 U.S. Department of Agriculture study that revealed nearly one child in four nationally was food insecure. However, child and anti-hunger advocates warn that the numbers on food insecurity are expected to rise over the coming years as the full impact of the recession is taken into account.

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## WELCOME!

Connecticut Food Bank welcomes the newest members of our staff: **Scott W. Bernier** as Chief Operating Officer; **Mieshie Jenkins** as Human Resources Generalist; **Sonia M. Rivera** as Fairfield Distribution Coordinator; **Christopher Vega** as Truck Driver/Warehouse Assistant; and **Carly Yearsley** as Programs Assistant. Also congratulations to **Sonia Milano** on her promotion to Operations Coordinator; and thank you to **Ann Cote** for serving as interim Chief Operating Officer in addition to her duties as Program Management Director.

## more FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

A record 50 companies in Greater Waterbury collected more than 6,900 pounds of food during the "2010 Day of Action to Stock the Pantry" food drive sponsored by the United Way of Greater Waterbury.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut selected the hunger-relief effort in Connecticut, which includes Connecticut Food Bank, as its state project for 2010-2012.

# FIGHTING HUNGER IN HONOR OF 2010 WALK AGAINST HUNGER

If it's the first Sunday in May, you know where Philip Sprague's friends will be—at East Rock Park in New Haven helping Connecticut Food Bank *Walk Against Hunger*.

Since 2008, Sprague's friends have been participating in the *Walk* to pay tribute to their 48-year-old friend, who died in a tragic accident in September 2007. His friends each wear an orange shirt with the words "Team Philip" emblazoned across their chests as they make their way through the three-mile *Walk* around the East Rock Park neighborhood.

This year, six of Sprague's friends who made up Team Philip were among the 1,200 walkers who participated in Connecticut Food Bank's annual *Walk Against Hunger* presented by Webster Bank. The *Walk* was held this year on April 18 in Bridgeport, April 25 in Waterbury and May 2 in New Haven. It was the first time the *Walk* was held in Bridgeport.

Overall, the *Walk* in the three communities raised more than \$180,000 for the anti-hunger effort in Connecticut. This year's event was down about \$9,000, which Janet Kniffin, Connecticut Food Bank's Chief Development Officer, attributed to poor weather at one of the sites and the probable effects of the beleaguered economy.

But Kniffin noted that the funds raised will enable Connecticut Food Bank to distribute enough food for more than 610,000 meals.

"Feeding people is the primary goal of our *Walk* every year," Kniffin said. "Our *Walk* seeks to raise public awareness about the problem of hunger and gives people in the community an opportunity to do something to help feed people."

And that's what Philip Sprague used to do on his own, said Brooke Taylor, one of the organizers of Team Philip.

"Philip was in a wheelchair, but he used to do the *Walk* every year by himself," she said. "He loved helping people and that was his way of helping people. The *Walk* was something he liked to do to give back."

Sprague, who lived in Branford, was a well-liked, outgoing man, Taylor said. He wouldn't let barriers stand in his way, but yet he was appreciative of every experience—good or bad—in his life.

"He never, ever let his disability get the best of him. Here he is in his wheelchair. He can't walk but that's one of things he wanted to do," Taylor said. "He was an inspiration to a lot of people."

So when Sprague's sister suggested his friends walk at the Food Bank's annual event in New Haven in 2008, they all jumped at the opportunity

## WATERBURY

Awards for the fifth annual Greater Waterbury *Walk Against Hunger* presented by Webster Bank are as follows:

### Top individual fundraisers

*First Prize:* Melissa Powell  
*Second Prize:* Jan Robertson  
*Third Prize:* Glenis Vialva

### Team fundraising prizes

*First Prize:* ShopRite/General Mills  
*Second Prize:* Federation Feet of The Jewish Federation

*Third Prize:* "Centennial Hunger Warriors," The Bible Church

### Spirit Awards

*Best Individual Costume:* Rev. Maner Tyson  
*Best Individual Spirit:* Laura Batista  
*Best Team Name:* "Peanut Butter & Jelly"  
*Best Team Theme:* "Centennial Hunger Warriors," The Bible Church  
*Best Team Costume:* "Bees Buzzing Against Hunger," The Salvation Army  
*Best Team Spirit:* "Goodnight to Hunger," Waterbury Baptist Ministries

Jonathan Wilcox Photography



# HONOR OF A FALLEN FRIEND: WALK AGAINST HUNGER



Since 2008, Team Philip has participated in the Walk to honor a fallen friend, Philip Sprague. Pictured here are members of Team Philip 2009 highlighting their Best Team Spirit award.

to pay tribute to Sprague. And they have been walking at the *Walk Against Hunger* every year since, despite their own disabilities, Taylor said.

“They still make it every year to do the *Walk*. For some of them, it’s hard to walk, but they manage,” Taylor said of Sprague’s friends. “They are their own family. They are there for one another. You can learn a lot from them.”

## NEW HAVEN

Awards for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Greater New Haven *Walk Against Hunger* presented by Webster Bank are as follows:

### Top individual fundraisers

*First Prize:* Dan Heaton  
*Second Prize:* Diana Cooke  
*Third Prize:* Stephanie Hall

### Team fundraising prizes

*First Prize:* Junior League of Greater New Haven  
*Second Prize:* “DeFeet Hunger,” HID Global  
*Third Prize:* Gateway Community College

### Spirit Awards

*Best Individual Spirit:* Cheryl Bedore  
*Best Team Name:* “Hope for Hunger”  
*Best Team Theme:* “MAG: Food is a Right,” Multi-Age Group, Beecher Road School  
*Best Team Spirit:* “DeFeet Hunger,” HID Global

## BRIDGEPORT

Awards for the inaugural Greater Bridgeport *Walk Against Hunger* presented by Webster Bank are as follows:

### Top individual fundraisers

*First Prize:* Janet Rossi  
*Second Prize:* Kate Coughlin  
*Third Prize:* Susan Breig

### Team fundraising prizes

*First Prize:* Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.  
*Second Prize:* University of Bridgeport  
*Third Prize:* Team Sonia Rivera

### Spirit Awards

*Best Individual Spirit:* Rev. Gerry Claytor  
*Best Team Name:* “Youth with a Purpose”  
*Best Team Theme:* “Sikorsky Operations Spirit Team Engages Against Malnutrition (SOS TEAM)”  
*Best Team Spirit:* Original Works

Thank you  
to all our 2010  
*Walk Against Hunger*  
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*About 1,200 walkers  
participated in this year’s  
Walk Against Hunger,  
helping to raise more than  
\$180,000 for the hunger-relief  
effort in Connecticut.*

To see more photos, visit:  
[www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org).

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Follow our tweets at  
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and join our growing number of  
followers. Tx 4 Ur support!



Jonathan Wilcox Photography

## THANKS FOR GIVING

The community—including individuals, organizations, businesses and religious institutions—donates thousands of pounds of much-needed food to Connecticut Food Bank through food drives and events. Thank you to everyone, especially to those who donated between November 12, 2009, and June 30, 2010.

175,000+ POUNDS  
Ocean State Job Lot

15,001 – 20,000 POUNDS  
AIA, Connecticut Chapter, Construction

6,001 – 7,000 POUNDS  
United Way of Greater Waterbury,  
Day of Action to Stock the Pantry

5,001 – 6,000 POUNDS  
Boy Scout Troop 931, Bethany

3,501 – 4,000 POUNDS  
Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.

2,501 – 3,000 POUNDS  
Amity Regional Senior High School  
Sodexo

2,001 – 2,500 POUNDS  
Junior League of Greater New Haven  
St. Vincent's Medical Center

1,501 – 2,000 POUNDS  
New Haven Ski Club  
Woodland Regional High School

1,001 – 1,500 POUNDS  
Boy Scout Troop 10  
Food Dudes of Madison  
News American Marketing  
North Haven High School  
Unitarian Church of Westport

501 – 1,000 POUNDS  
Amistad Academy  
Bic Corp.  
Blackbird Yoga, LLC  
Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP  
Bridgeport Hospital  
Chubb Group of Insurance Cos.  
Coastal Chordsmen  
Community Dining Room, Inc.  
Creative Body Therapies  
Dolphin Days Learning Center  
East Haven High School  
The Eastern Bag & Paper Group  
Executive Auto Group  
Colin Gardner  
Genworth Foundation  
Hobson & Motzer  
John's Refuse and Recycling  
Landmark Academy  
Louis Dreyfus Highbridge Energy  
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Julius H. Vince  
Vinnie the Taper  
VNA Community Healthcare  
Westport-Weston Co-Op Nursery School  
Yale School of Management

## Upcoming Events

**HUNGER ACTION MONTH.** For the third consecutive year, *Hunger Action Month* will be held in September. Feeding America and its network of food banks, including Connecticut Food Bank, will host events across the country to benefit hunger-relief efforts and engage more people to take action against hunger. Activities and events planned at Connecticut Food Bank for the month include the unveiling of its Hunger 101 curriculum, the relaunch of Connecticut Food Bank's blog, the SNAP Challenge (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Challenge, formerly known as the Food Stamp Challenge), Programs Conference, Hunger Action Heroes award ceremony and more. More information will be posted on [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org).

**PROGRAMS CONFERENCE.** Connecticut Food Bank will host its biennial *Programs Conference* Sept. 23 at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden. The daylong conference will offer an opportunity to share information, raise awareness, and reflect on current conditions and trends in the fight against hunger. For more information, visit [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org).

**HUNGER ACTION HEROES.** Connecticut Food Bank will honor its "Hunger Action Heroes" at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden. This event, formerly known as the Donor Recognition Event, will immediately follow the Programs Conference. Connecticut Food Bank will recognize our friends and partners who helped advance the fight against hunger in Connecticut. Stay tuned to [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org) for more details.

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THANKSGIVING FOR ALL

to help make "Thanksgiving for All" a reality for many Connecticut residents in danger of going without a holiday meal. For more information about the upcoming holiday activities, call (203) 469-5000 or visit [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org).

### THANKSGIVING FOR ALL 2010.

In November, local civic and religious organizations, charitable foundations, businesses, media and supermarkets will host and sponsor special events and food drives

## Hunger 101 to Be Unveiled During Hunger Action Month

Connecticut Food Bank will unveil *Hunger 101*, an interactive, group learning experience for people age 12 and older, during Hunger Action Month in September. The *Hunger 101* experience will give you an opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes and see firsthand what it's like to struggle with poverty and hunger in Connecticut.

As participants of *Hunger 101*, you will be faced with the challenge of managing your resources to get enough food to feed you and your families—at a simulated grocery store, food pantry or social service office.

*Hunger 101* works as a tool to help increase awareness of hunger and poverty. It focuses on identifying populations at risk of hunger, the causes and effects of food insecurity, and strategies to address hunger.

Connecticut Food Bank is now seeking volunteers who are willing to be trained as *Hunger 101* facilitators. If you are interested, please e-mail [cfb@ctfoodbank.org](mailto:cfb@ctfoodbank.org) for more information.



## more FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana raised \$9,100 for Connecticut Food Bank as part of the pizzeria's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which included a benefit night for the Food Bank. Pepe's also donated to the Food Bank proceeds from the commemorative sale of Pepe's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts and hats, and 10 percent of all sales made on June 24.



## THE HARVEST CLUB GIVING PROGRAM

**What is the Harvest Club?** The Harvest Club is Connecticut Food Bank's most committed group of supporters. They give regularly so we can secure and distribute food to our hungry neighbors day in and day out, all year long. You can sign up to give monthly, quarterly or yearly.

**Why should I join?** Many people want to support the Food Bank on a regular basis and like the convenience of having their gift automatically charged to their credit card at regular intervals. There is less hassle and it is easy to track your charitable giving. At the end of the year, you will receive a receipt for tax purposes totaling your yearly donation.

**Is it safe?** Absolutely! You determine the amount of money and frequency to be charged to your credit card. There is no risk of losing a check in the mail. Furthermore, you can end your Harvest Club membership any time by simply contacting us.

**How do I sign up?** Call Janet Kniffin, Chief Development Officer, at (203) 469-5000 ext. 303 or e-mail [jkniffin@ctfoodbank.org](mailto:jkniffin@ctfoodbank.org).

## Landmark “Children in the Recession” Law Passed

On June 8, Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed into law the *Act Concerning Children in the Recession*, a landmark legislation that will help address the needs of children affected by an economic recession. The law calls for more efficient outreach and coordination of services to families most in need.

In terms of nutrition, the law will help alleviate hunger by potentially bringing in more than \$8.4 million in federal funding to Connecticut. The law will seek to coordinate information and improve outreach for the federal school breakfast, summer food service, and child care food programs, as well as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

Connecticut is the first state to approve such legislation, the product of House Speaker Christopher G. Donovan’s Task Force on Children in the Recession.

According to state Rep. Diana S. Urban, D-North Stonington, and Rep. Karen Jarmoc, D-Enfield, the co-chairs of the Task Force, Connecticut had to take action because the recession is expected to drive 35,000 children in Connecticut into poverty at an annual cost of \$800 million in lost future earnings and developmental and health problems.

That figure of 35,000 children does not include children already living in poverty who will be forced deeper into poverty by the recession, Urban said.

“The children who will be falling into poverty are the children we are going to depend on for our future. These are the kids we expect to get jobs, to produce and ultimately take care of us. Even if you look at those numbers and you’re not particularly moved by children’s plight, you can be moved by what our future will hold for us if we don’t go down this path,” Urban said. “I would also remind people that when you are looking at the achievement gap, a child who doesn’t get breakfast or a child who doesn’t get lunch is a child who will have a terrible time doing math, doing science. We already have the biggest achievement gap among all the states.”



Rep. Diana S. Urban

### Donors Into Recipients *continued from page 1*

Master’s Manna, like other food-assistance programs in Connecticut, continues to see more people come through their doors for the first time. One week in June, Master’s Manna saw 22 new families seeking assistance.

In Connecticut, one in seven households struggled with hunger in 2009, according to a report released by the Food Research and Action Center, a national nonprofit working to eradicate hunger and undernutrition in the U.S.

“Economists project that households experiencing the long-term unemployment or underemployment associated with this recession will not fully recover for at least 10 years beyond the turnaround of the economy,” said Nancy L. Carrington, Connecticut Food Bank’s Chief Executive Officer. “Connecticut Food Bank and our food-assistance network must be prepared to respond to that forecasted decade of continued need as well as the immediate crisis.”

The need isn’t just in the city. It’s in the suburbs and rural communities.

Fifty-five percent of the people served by Connecticut Food Bank’s food pantry network come from suburban or small towns, while 45 percent come from urban communities, Carrington said.

In Stonington, considered an affluent town in southeastern Connecticut, Beth-Ann Stewart, director of the town’s Human Services Department, has seen a 65 percent overall jump in services rendered from 2006 to 2008. In that same time period, Stewart said Stonington saw a 53 percent increase in unemployed individuals.

“I’ve been here as human services director for nine years now, and I’ve been watching this phenomenon—the “haves” and the “have-nots”—and the gap keeps growing,” Stewart said. “The reality is there is a lot of visible wealth in our community and I am forever saying that we service an invisible population because poverty in Stonington isn’t really viewed on the street.”

Bedore of Master’s Manna in central Connecticut agreed.

“You cannot be surprised about the face of hunger. It’s not just the person sitting on the street corner,” Bedore said. “It’s not just the homeless person. It’s the person sitting next to you at your office. It’s the person sitting across from you in a business meeting. It’s your neighbor. It’s your friend. Hunger is not over there, out of touch anymore. It’s all around you.”

But you can help. Call Connecticut Food Bank at (203) 469-5000 or visit [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org) to find out what you can do to help.

## more THANKS FOR GIVING

200 – 500 POUNDS  
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 Yale Child Study Center  
 Yale University Health Services  
 Zion Hill Preschool Program

## more FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

People’s United Community Foundation gave Connecticut Food Bank \$20,000 to support its summer food distribution, after responding to the Food Bank’s plea for help regarding a food shortage in mid-June.



# CONNECTICUT food bank

A PARTNERSHIP TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

A Member of  
**FEEDING AMERICA**

*The mission of  
Connecticut Food Bank  
is to alleviate hunger.*

*We strive to do this by supplying  
food and grocery products and resources  
to eligible programs throughout  
our service areas and by promoting  
public awareness about  
the problem of hunger.*

## Connecticut Food Bank

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[www.facebook.com/ctfoodbank](http://www.facebook.com/ctfoodbank)

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*Connecticut Food Bank welcomes  
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*If your name is incorrect or you are  
receiving duplicate mailings,  
please call (203) 469-5000 or  
e-mail [cfb@ctfoodbank.org](mailto:cfb@ctfoodbank.org).*

## Walmart: \$2 Billion Pledge to Fight Hunger

In a move to show its commitment to fight domestic hunger, Walmart named Feeding America as one of the recipient organizations of a landmark \$2 billion commitment under the retailer's "Fight Hunger Together" initiative.

The commitment, spanning five years, will include \$250 million in cash grants to Feeding America and other hunger-relief organizations, in addition to the value of food donated to Feeding America food banks across the nation.

Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, is a network of more than 200 food banks across the country. Connecticut Food Bank is a member of the Feeding America network.

Connecticut Food Bank Chief Executive Officer Nancy L. Carrington called Walmart's pledge a true testament of the company's unwavering commitment to fight hunger in our communities.

"We are extremely grateful and overwhelmed by this clear demonstration of Walmart's leadership in the hunger fight," Carrington said.

Walmart's "Fighting Hunger Together" initiative includes:

- **Donating more than 1.1 billion pounds of food** from Walmart stores, distribution centers and Sam's Club locations, valued at \$1.75 billion;
- **Awarding grants totaling \$250 million** to support hunger-relief organizations at the national, state and local levels;
- **Mobilizing Walmart associates and customers.** For example, Walmart's logistics team will lend their expertise to help food banks become more efficient in their operations; and
- **Collaborating with government, food manufacturers and other corporations** that are fighting hunger to increase impact and reach a greater number of families in need.

Walmart stores in Connecticut have been strong supporters of Connecticut Food Bank as food and financial donors. This past year, the Walmart Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to support Connecticut Food Bank's *Kids' Backpack Program*.



Associates from the Walmart store in Shelton kicked off their store food drive with their own contributions on June 25.



## Nancy Carrington Honored

**H**artford *Business Journal* named Nancy L. Carrington, Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Food Bank, as the 2010 Nonprofit Executive of the Year.

That recognition came a month after Carrington was inducted on May 6 into the Amity "Hall of Honor" by the Amity Regional School District No. 5. Carrington, class of 1966, was honored by her alma mater for her distinguished 26 years of public service with Connecticut Food Bank, the state's largest centralized source of emergency food.

*Hartford Business Journal* recognized Carrington as one of the publication's "2010 Nonprofit Heroes"

at a ceremony held at the Connecticut Convention Center on June 10.

"Connecticut's nonprofit community stepped up in a major way during the past year as the state's economy continued to struggle through the national recession," *Journal* Publisher Gail Lebert said in a statement introducing the newspaper's Nonprofit Heroes. "Without (our Nonprofit Heroes), our communities would look vastly different. They inspire us and remind us all of our obligation to reach out to others in need with a welcome and helping hand."

A number of people in the Amity community nominated Carrington for the local honor after they read a 2009 *Amity Observer* newspaper profile on her 25 years of service at the Food Bank.

According to Sheila F. Wycinowski, Amity's Director of Curriculum & Staff Development and Chair of the Amity Hall of Honor Committee, the committee looks for honorees among individuals who have made an impact in the community.

"We're looking for someone who exemplifies the high standards of the community," Wycinowski said. "We looked at (Carrington's) accomplishments, her devotion to community service, her knowledge and care of the community and all those values we hold high in Amity ... We felt she embodied that."