

Connecticut Food News

February 2011 Volume 20, Number 1

Nearly 15 percent of Families in the State Unable to Afford Enough Food



Shirley Surette, associate director at Willimantic's Covenant Soup Kitchen, reports the organization served 300 more meals in the soup kitchen and 600 additional meals from the emergency food pantry when comparing November 2010 to November 2009's numbers. "Some of our clients are saying, 'I used to come here years ago and now I have to come back,' or they were the ones who always donated to us and now find themselves coming to the soup kitchen for meals," she said.

The Covenant Soup Kitchen, a member of Connecticut Food Bank, served nearly 4,000 meals in November 2010 alone, with nearly 6,000 additional meals coming from the emergency food pantry that serves the greater Willimantic area.

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) data analysis from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, shows nearly 15 percent of Connecticut residents surveyed in the first half of 2010 said there were times in the prior 12 months that they did not have enough money to buy food they needed for themselves or their family. The report also finds that food hardship in Connecticut decreased by less than one percent from July 2009 through June 2010.

"Although the food hardship rate in Connecticut has not increased, the number of families who continue to struggle to put food on the table remains very high at 1 in 7 surveyed," said Connecticut Food Bank's President & Chief Executive Officer Nancy L. Carrington. "It will be challenging, but in the New Year we must do all that we can to reduce these numbers that represent family, friends, co-workers or neighbors who are affected by unemployment, underemployment, poverty and food hardship."

Join the Pound for Pound Challenge — then Walk Against Hunger!

As a member of the Feeding America network, Connecticut Food Bank is part of the organization's Pound For Pound Challenge! This successful national fundraising program partners with NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, General Mills, and Subway to encourage Americans to "Lose Nationally, Feed Locally."

Connecticut Food Bank needs your support to make our involvement a success!

Participating is easy and your impact can be huge. Simply sign up and pledge your weight loss goals at www.pfpchallenge.com. For every pound you pledge, the Pound for Pound Challenge will donate 11 cents to Feeding America – enough to secure one pound of groceries for Connecticut Food Bank.

The more sign-ups and pledges Connecticut Food Bank has, the more funds we receive. You can help us by signing up now and encouraging others to sign up and/or pledge! It's a great opportunity for you to do something good for yourself, and do something good for your family, friends and neighbors who are struggling to put food on the table.

Once you sign up for the Pound for Pound Challenge, you can continue to make a difference and keep fit by signing up for one of Connecticut Food Bank's *Walk Against Hunger* events. The 2.5 to 3 mile *Walk* gives you the opportunity to help others, have fun and stay fit. Form a team and join us at one of the following locations:

Greater New Haven – May 1 - College Woods Pavilion East Rock Park

Greater Bridgeport – May 15 - Seaside Park

Greater Waterbury – May 22 - Library Park

To learn more about the Pound For Pound Challenge, visit www.pfpchallenge.com, and to register your team for the *Walk Against Hunger*, visit www.ctfoodbank.org/walkagainsthunger.



CONNECTICUT
food bank
A PARTNERSHIP TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

FUNDRAISING NUGGETS

Thank you to the following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations that made donations of \$2,500 and more from June 1, 2010, to November 15, 2010.

A-1 Toyota
Aidmatrix
America's Charities
American Eagle Federal Credit Union
Anonymous (2)
Aquarion Water Company
AT&T Employees' Community Services Fund
BeavEx
Bedoukian Research Inc.
Bic Corporation
John Bozzi & Dr. Catherine Arnold
Bromer Kearney Charitable Foundation
Penney Burnett
Church Women United
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Food Bank of New Jersey
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Connecticut Bar Association
Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation, Inc.
CT State Medical Society
The D'Agostino Family Foundation
Philip & Diana Danford
John Didomizio
Frank & Augusta Downey
Fairfield County Community Foundation
Feeding America
Garden Homes Fund
Estate of Dr. E. Louise Gaudet
Andrew & Catherine Geggie
Genworth Foundation
William & Jean Graustein
Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Colin Green
Hartford Foundation
Helen & William Mazer Foundation
The Huisking Foundation, Inc.
The Sara & David Hunt Charitable Foundation
Eric & Mary Hyson
IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign
Knights of Columbus
Theresa Zinck Lederer
The Marion Moore Foundation Inc.
Daniel & Sharon Milikowsky Foundation
Michael & Joanne Morton
Newman's Own Foundation
O & G Industries
The Pampered Chef
PartnerRe U.S.
Peapod By Stop & Shop
People's United Community Foundation
Sophie K. Pepe
Pfizer United Way Campaign
R.C. Bigelow, Inc.
Eileen D. Rodman
Lawrence & Robin Sapanski
Lynn Z. Schriber
ShopRite
Daniel Slattery
Lois Sontag, Jeld Charitable Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Harold A. Spratt
Stop & Shop
Sun Hill Foundation
The Resource Foundation
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Bettye H. Turitto
The United Illuminating Company
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
The Walmart Foundation
Wellpoint Associate Giving Campaign
The Werth Family Foundation
William H. Prusoff Foundation

FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

In recognition of Yom Kippur, the Jewish “Day of Atonement,” three local congregations collected food to benefit Connecticut Food Bank. **Congregation B’Nai Israel** in Bridgeport contributed 5,895 pounds, **Congregation Or Shalom** in Orange 2,115 pounds and **Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel** in New Haven, 1,031 pounds of food.

In a chain-wide effort to help the hungry within the local community, **Big Y** supermarkets launched a Sack Hunger program in early November 2010. Customers purchased a large green reusable grocery bag for \$10 that was filled with staple non-perishable food items. Connecticut Food Bank received the pre-assembled bags and distributed them to area soup kitchens, food pantries, senior food programs, daycare centers as well as many of their other member agencies.

The **Sodexo Foundation** recently awarded a multi-year grant to fund the Danbury School District’s Kids’ Backpack Program administered by the Connecticut Food Bank. The \$4,500 grant will be distributed over three years. Connecticut Food Bank received the first installment in the amount of \$2,000 to fund the program that provides school children who are food insecure on weekends with healthy food that helps them learn and grow. There are currently a dozen schools in Danbury that participate in the program.

On December 9, 2010, **American Eagle Federal Credit Union** Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving awarded \$2,500 to benefit residents in need who live in Middlesex County. William J. Dokas, President and CEO of American Eagle Federal Credit Union, presented the check to Connecticut Food Bank’s Chief Development Officer, Janet Kniffin, during distribution from the new mobile pantry, which delivers 5,000 pounds of fresh food directly to people in their own neighborhoods.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) report released in early 2011 shows that nearly 15 percent of Connecticut residents surveyed said there were times last year when they did not know where their next meal was coming from.

Although research indicates that food hardship numbers did not increase dramatically over the past year, one in seven families in Connecticut remains food insecure and one in ten people are living in poverty. Many people are using food assistance for the very first time as unemployment and underemployment remain high and children continue to go to bed, and to school, hungry.

The good news is Connecticut Food Bank and its partners continue to increase efforts to secure and distribute more food to people in need. With support from the community, Connecticut Food Bank distributed nearly 15 million pounds of food in 2010. That amounts to approximately 12 million meals served by community soup kitchens, food pantries, emergency shelters and low-income children’s and senior programs.

We are grateful for several sizeable financial contributions that will make a world of difference in Connecticut Food Bank’s fight against hunger in 2011. Walmart employees selected the Mobile Pantry Program as the recipient of a \$100,000 grant through its Associate Choice Program, and the American Eagle Credit Union donated \$2,500 to the Middlesex County distributions of the Mobile Food Pantry through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. These generous donations allow us to continue our work to bring fresh produce, dairy and other perishable items directly to those in need. A second \$100,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program helps fund our Kids’ Backpack program. This vitally important program provides nutritious and supplemental food on weekends to 1,700 students in need throughout Connecticut.

These examples of generous gifts and the continued financial contributions, food donations and countless hours of our volunteers, all help give hungry individuals and families a chance in this increasingly challenging economy.

Nancy L. Carrington, President & Chief Executive Officer

Governor’s Annual Care & Share Drive

For 27 years, the Governor’s Care & Share Holiday Food Drive has made a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands in Connecticut who depend on Connecticut Food Bank’s network of food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Through the continued generosity of state employees and public officials who continue to support the effort to alleviate hunger and poverty in Connecticut, Connecticut Food Bank continues to try to meet the increasing demand from those who are in need in this challenging economy.

At a press conference announcing this year’s totals of 7,600 pounds of food and nearly \$23,600, Connecticut Food Bank President & CEO Nancy L. Carrington thanked Governor M. Jodi Rell for lending her support over the years and for bringing the public’s attention to the problem of hunger in Connecticut.

“Throughout her six-year tenure, Governor Rell not only continued the tradition of the Care & Share program, but instituted three additional initiatives that acknowledge hunger is a year-round issue,” said Carrington.

Governor Rell launched the Summer Care & Share fund drive in 2008 which resulted in a \$150,000 donation for Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare. In addition, she also called on Connecticut residents to participate in two separate “Day of Caring & Compassion” food drives at 12 Connecticut fire stations, with the donated non-perishable food items distributed to Connecticut’s food banks.

Carrington pointed out that under Governor Rell’s leadership, food and fund drives have resulted in more than \$315,000 and nearly 225,000 pounds of donated food. “We thank Connecticut residents, Connecticut State Employees and especially Governor Rell for helping so many neighbors in need over the years,” said Carrington.



Meet our 2010 Hunger Action Heroes

Connecticut Food Bank paid tribute to its Hunger Action Heroes last fall for their extraordinary service on behalf of its mission to alleviate hunger.

The Heroes are men, women and organizations who have gone beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the hunger-relief effort and improve the lives of the people we serve—time and time again. They are individuals and companies who make it possible for us to feed the men, women and children who are struggling with hunger in our communities.

“You are our heroes in many ways, but more importantly you are our inspiration,” Connecticut Food Bank President & CEO Nancy L. Carrington told the honorees. “It is through your actions and your leadership that you inspire us to do more and to be better so that we can continue to serve the 300,000 people who depend on us for food.”

Unilever was presented with The Bill Liddell Award – the highest honor presented by Connecticut Food Bank to an individual, organization or corporation in recognition of exemplary service, ongoing dedication and significant support of the Food Bank and its mission.

The 2010 Hunger Action Heroes are:

- Amanda Cuda: Media Hero
- Ellen Mullen: Volunteer Hero
- Lucy Nolan: Advocacy Hero
- Sarah Viglione: Fundraising Hero
- Nathaniel Zelinsky: Student Hero
- Moark Egg: Food Industry Hero
- Shoreline Soup Kitchens: Member Program Hero
- Sikorsky Aircraft: Corporate Hero
- Thermo King of Southern Connecticut: Business Hero



Local Farmers Help General Federation of Women's Clubs Fight Hunger

There are 48 chapters of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) in Connecticut and we are fortunate that they have taken on the fight against hunger as a state-wide initiative. The GFWC goal is to raise \$25,000 and 25,000 pounds of food from 2010 to 2012.

Inspired by what she learned about Connecticut Food Bank, Florence Pierson of the Northford Women's Club took it upon herself to contact a number of local farms about donating fresh produce to the Food Bank. Her work resulted in nearly 18,000 pounds of vegetables such as eggplant, cucumbers and squash donated from the generous farmers in her community. Thanks to Florence, the Connecticut GFWC is already nearly 75 percent of its food collection goal.

Junior League of Greater New Haven Reaches 50,000 Meals Donated

Connecticut Food Bank has provided an additional 50,000 meals to those in need from the generous funds donated and food drives hosted by the Junior League of Greater New Haven. Since 2005, the JLGNH has partnered with the food bank by volunteering at the Fill the Bowl Thanksgiving events, hosting a wine-tasting event, donating non-perishable food and participating in the Annual Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger. The JLGNH also holds a Super Saturday Food Drive each Super Bowl weekend.

more FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

Stop & Shop Supermarket Company set a new record in 2010 with its annual Food for Friends campaign. Over \$2 million – a 40% increase from 2009 – was donated to more than 300 local food pantries and regional food banks throughout Stop & Shop's operating areas. Customers donated \$1, \$3, or \$5 “paper turkeys” at their local Stop & Shop from the end of October to mid-December. Donations from the program to Connecticut Food Bank totaled \$123,538.



The **Connecticut Chapter of the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA)** recently presented Connecticut Food Bank with a \$2,835 check and \$635 in Stop & Shop gift cards to help those in need during the continued recession. The non-profit organization made its first-time contribution to Connecticut Food Bank by asking its 40 members to consider a gift to the food bank rather than toward the purchase of gifts for the group's holiday raffle. The members were more than happy to participate and the organization decided to match each member's donation. The national AFSA then gave another \$500. Connecticut AFSA Chapter Chairman Robert Hollis presented Connecticut Food Bank's President & CEO Nancy L. Carrington with the organization's generous gift.



The **Pine Grove Men's Club** recently donated \$400 to the Connecticut Food Bank during the holiday season. Club President James Barbieri (left) and Treasurer Al Cannavaciolo presented the check to Connecticut Food Bank's President & CEO Nancy L. Carrington on behalf of the 40-member organization which is based in North Haven.

CONNECTICUT FOOD BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- James Augur, *Treasurer***
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New Haven Museum
- Nancy L. Carrington,**
Connecticut Food Bank
President & Chief Executive Officer
Ex-Officio

HONORARY BOARD

- Edward Wood Dunham, Esq.**
Wiggin and Dana
- William Dyson**
Former State Representative

DID YOU KNOW?

Every dollar donated to Connecticut Food Bank helps us provide three meals to someone in need.

WELCOME!

Connecticut Food Bank welcomes new staff, announces promotions and staff changes: Alex Cordova, Special Events Assistant; Dennis DeMeglio, Operations Director; Mary Ingarra, Communications Director; Edwin Lopez, Warehouse/Programs Resources Coordinator; Jena Draine-Moss, Programs assistant; and Rick Reichert, Director of Philanthropy.

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions; Luray (Bouffard) Shepard, Programs Director; Sarah Heidel, Manager of Inventory Control & Quality Standards; Sonia Rivera, Waterbury Warehouse Manager; and Carly Yearsley, Child Nutrition Coordinator.

Employees taking on new positions are David Ayala, East Haven Distribution Coordinator; and Lenus Eaton, East Haven Warehouse Assistant.

Annual "Thanksgiving for All" Campaign a Success

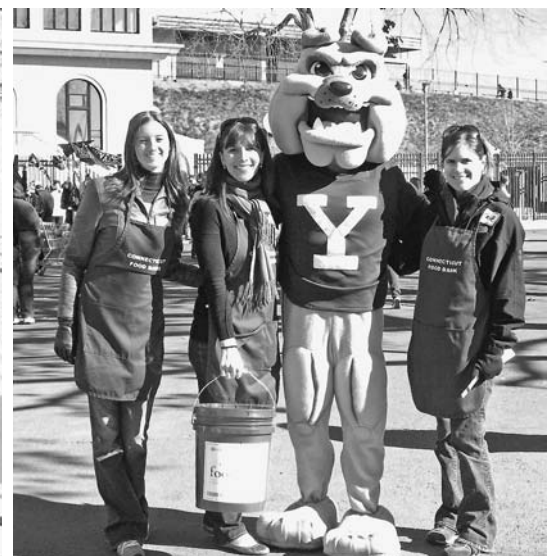
Thanks to the scores of individuals, families, civic groups, schools, religious organizations and companies who came forward in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, Connecticut Food Bank's "Thanksgiving for All" campaign was a success. A total of 24,516 turkeys and more than 360 tons of trimmings were collected. With everyone's help, nearly 779,503 meals were provided to those in need during the holiday season.

Connecticut Food Bank also thanks the volunteers and staff members who worked tirelessly to make sure the food drives went smoothly. Thousands came to our warehouses in East Haven, Fairfield and Waterbury; and to food drives sponsored by local radio stations KC101, WELI, ESPN, Star 99.9, WATR, 99.1 WPLR and i95. In addition, News Channel 8, WPLR and Yale Athletics hosted the annual Fill the Bowl event at Yale Bowl at the Yale vs. Princeton game in mid-November, resulting in \$6,470 and more than 1,300 pounds of food raised. And the Friends of (Michael) Maze Food Drive raised more than \$2,900 and 1,500 pounds of food.

The kindness demonstrated throughout the Thanksgiving campaign was not only awe-inspiring, but also a testament to what we can do when we work together as a community. "As today's recession continues to push more of our neighbors over the brink of financial security, we have to do more," said Connecticut Food Bank's President & CEO Nancy L. Carrington. "Hunger is a year-round issue that doesn't end on Thanksgiving weekend. Connecticut families can be helped year round by online donations at www.ctfoodbank.org."

Since this current recession began, Connecticut was one of the states that experienced the most significant increases in the number of households grappling with food insecurity according to a federal report released days before Thanksgiving. "Those who donated over the holidays demonstrate that we have the ability and fortitude to feed thousands of individuals who were in danger of going without a holiday meal," said Carrington. "We can resolve to continue this effort beyond Thanksgiving and into the days and months that follow."

Call 203-469-5000 or visit www.ctfoodbank.org for more information on how you can help all year long.



Hopkins School Students Reach Milestone As They Achieve All-Time Fundraising Record

When Sam Greco heard that Nathaniel Zelinsky won our Student Hero award at the 2010 Hunger Action Heroes ceremony for raising a record-breaking \$74,000 in 2009, he was not intimidated by the big numbers. As Student Council President and member of the Hopkins Class of 2011, Sam saw Nathaniel's achievement as a personal challenge. He calmly announced that he would exceed all records. And that he did!

Not only did Sam break the records, he surprised President & CEO Nancy L. Carrington when the "check" was presented to Connecticut Food Bank at a special holiday school assembly on December 17, 2010. "We went into the assembly believing that Sam and the Hopkins students had raised just under \$50,000 which is no small feat," said Carrington. "Needless to say, I was shocked when the check was handed to me!"

Students in grades 7 through 12 at Hopkins School in New Haven raised a record \$75,101.34 for Connecticut Food Bank during this year's annual fundraiser. That amount brings the cumulative dollars raised by the school over nearly 20 years to more than \$500,000.

Hopkins students are one of Connecticut Food Bank's top fund-raising groups, and over the years have provided hundreds of thousands of meals for men, women and children who are in need throughout Connecticut.

"As many of us know, there is an unprecedented need across our country," said Carrington. "During this time of economic stress, many people are finding themselves in need of help for the first time in their lives. Hopkins School's remarkable students and their families recognize these are challenging times and are dedicated to making a difference in the fight against hunger."

Sam Greco is the son of Jim Greco, who just completed his third term as a member of the Board of Directors of Connecticut Food Bank.

The outstanding totals raised by each Hopkins class:

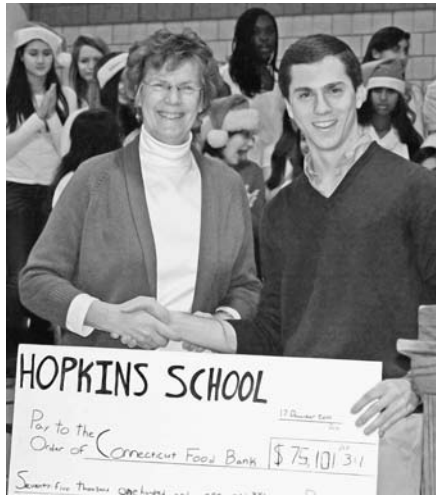
5th Place: 11th Grade = \$8,683.95

4th Place: 9th Grade = \$10,649.87

3rd Place: 12th Grade = \$15,793.67

2nd Place: Junior School = \$19,342.15

1st Place: 10th Grade = \$21,001.60



more FOOD NEWS & FUNDRAISERS



Miss Connecticut Jr. Pre-Teen, Mikayla Raffone of East Haven, collected 117 pounds of food for Connecticut Food Bank. Mikayla asked those who attended a fundraiser to send her to the national competition in Anaheim, California, to donate non-perishable food items. The East Haven Academy student, her mother and sister personally delivered the items to the Food Bank in time for the holidays.



Students at **John C. Daniels School** in New Haven donated 420 pounds of food and raised \$135 for Connecticut Food Bank at their **Zumba for a Cause** event. Each classroom was assigned a particular non-perishable food item to collect such as tuna, peanut butter and fruit cocktail. Students and teachers then collected funds to sponsor an hour's worth of Zumba dancing in the gym.

Hallock Orchard Donates Entire Apple Harvest to Connecticut Food Bank

Anthony DiBenedetto and his family, owners of Hallock Orchard in Washington Depot, donated the Litchfield County farm's entire apple harvest to Connecticut Food Bank. The result was an amazing 60,425 pounds or more than 480,000 fresh apples!

The generous donation also was a great volunteer opportunity. Families, individuals, and groups from local schools all gave their time and effort. By the time the last apple was picked, volunteers had logged more than 600 hours over a five-week period from September through October.

The DiBenedetto family has given fresh apples to Connecticut Food Bank for the last six years, but this was the first time an entire harvest was donated. Many thanks to the DiBenedetto family and to all the volunteers who made the donation possible!



DID YOU KNOW?

For \$7, Connecticut Food Bank can feed a Connecticut child for a week.

ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

To view a copy of Connecticut Food Bank's 2009-2010 annual report visit www.ctfoodbank.org, or request a copy by calling Janet Kniffin, Chief Development Officer, at 203-469-5000, ext. 303, or e-mail jkniffin@ctfoodbank.org.

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 June 1, 2010, and November 15, 2010.

5,001 – 6,000 POUNDS

Congregation B’Nai Israel, Bridgeport

3,001 – 3,500 POUNDS

Gathering of the Vibes / Terrapin Foundation

2,501 – 3,000 POUNDS

DaCor Installation Services, Inc.

2001 – 2,500 POUNDS

Congregation Or Shalom, Orange
Schick-Wilkinson Sword

1,001 – 1,500 POUNDS

Aces
Congregation Beth El-Kesser Israel, New Haven
Weight Watchers

501 – 1,000 POUNDS

Beccaria Family
Bucks Hill School
Church of the Redeemer, UCC
Fairfield County Fish & Game
Protective Association
Inter Fraternity and Sorority Council,
University of New Haven
New England Synod ELCA
Oronoke Village Inc.
People’s United Bank
Riverfield Elementary School
TJ Maxx District 1108
Rose Torre
Unitarian Church of Westport
United Health Care
Waterbury Development Corporation
White Tail Solutions LLC

200- 500 POUNDS

James & Barbara Abraham
Agricultural Commission of Northford
Alliant Services
Beach Street Hospitality
Carmody & Torrance
Stan Crouch & Victor Shull
Lori Davis
Eastern Bag & Paper Group
Lisa Feistel
Greenwich Academy
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
HealthNet
House of Prayer and Deliverance Church
IKEA
KMK Insulation
Mantrose – Haeuser Co. Inc.
Nemergut Orchard
News American Marketing
Petra Construction
Quassy Amusement Park
Quota Club of New Haven
Regional Water Authority
Renegade Knights
Mary Rumsey
Sharks Swim Team
Southern CT State University Athletics
Stop & Shop Supermarket, #692, East Haven
Sun Products Corporation
James Trimble
Unilever
Wrap 4 A Smile Foundation
Yale Divinity School

Connecticut Food Bank is on
Facebook and Twitter.

Check us out at
www.facebook.com/ctfoodbank and
show us how much you “Like” us.
Follow our tweets at
www.twitter.com/ctfoodbank
and join our growing number of
followers. Tx 4 Ur support!

Upcoming Events

TASTE OF THE NATION. New Haven’s **Taste of the Nation** benefit is Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at the Commons located in Woolsey Hall at Yale University, from 5 to 9 p.m. The annual event, sponsored by Share Our Strength, is one of many planned around the country to raise money for state and world-wide hunger-relief efforts. The benefit features food and wine tasting from local restaurants and wine and spirit distributors -- all of whom are coming together to donate their time, talent and passion to end childhood hunger in America. For more information, e-mail tastenehaven@gmail.com. Look for updates on www.ctfoodbank.org and www.strength.org/newhaven/.



SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S
**TASTE OF THE
NATION**
NO KID HUNGRY

Taste of the Nation funds help:

- Enroll more eligible kids in school breakfast, after-school snacks and meals, and their families in SNAP (food stamps)
- Bring community gardens and farmers markets to low-income neighborhoods
- Bring affordable, fresh fruits and vegetables to urban corner stores
- Teach at-risk families how to plan, shop for and prepare healthy, low-cost meals at home
- Meet the pressing demands on local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens to provide more nutritious food
- Increase awareness and understanding of childhood hunger and solutions

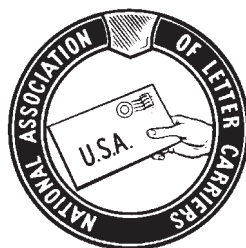
WALK AGAINST HUNGER. Save the dates for 2011’s *Walk Against Hunger* presented by Webster Bank. Help raise money and awareness for the fight against hunger, at the 35th Annual Greater New Haven *Walk Against Hunger* on Sunday, May 1, at College Woods Pavilion at East Rock Park; the 2nd Annual Greater Bridgeport *Walk Against Hunger*, Sunday, May 15 at Seaside Park; and the 6th Annual Greater Waterbury *Walk Against Hunger* on Sunday, May 22, at Library Park in downtown Waterbury. All three walks kick off at 2 p.m. rain or shine, and range 2.5 to 3 miles in length.



In 2010, a total of 1,200 walkers participated and raised more than \$180,000 for the anti-hunger effort in Connecticut. Those funds enabled Connecticut Food Bank to distribute enough food for more than 610,000 meals.

“The *Walk* raises awareness about the problem of hunger and gives people in the community an opportunity to help their neighbors and have fun doing it,” said Janet Kniffin, Connecticut Food Bank’s Chief Development Officer.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this year’s walk. Register your team today at www.ctfoodbank.org/walkagainsthunger, or contact Stefanie Stevens at 203-469-5000, ext. 302 or sstevens@ctfoodbank.org.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS (NALC) FOOD DRIVE. On Saturday, May 7, 2011, the NALC is hosting Stamp Out Hunger, the nation’s largest annual one-day food drive. Residents leave non-perishable food items at their mailboxes for mail carriers to collect and deliver to local food banks. Connecticut Food Bank needs volunteers to help unload the food. Call Kim Damien at 203-469-5000, ext. 311 or kdamien@ctfoodbank.org if you wish to donate your time.

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.

Program Spotlight: WHEAT Serving West Haven for 35 Years

The West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce (WHEAT) recently marked its 35-year anniversary. The WHEAT food pantry has been a member of Connecticut Food Bank since the Food Bank was incorporated in 1982 as the state's first regional food bank. Since 1975, WHEAT, a predominantly volunteer-run organization, has given out 864,000 meals, feeding more than 32,000 West Haven residents.

In addition to a food pantry, WHEAT has a sign-up center for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called food stamps, and the Project MotherCare medical clinic operated by the Hospital of Saint Raphael. WHEAT also serves the Spanish-speaking community with the help of a Spanish interpreter.

"We're the central charity for the city of West Haven" said Rose Majestic, WHEAT's Executive Director. "We're not just a food pantry and clinic. We're the central referral center for other agencies inside and outside West Haven for clothing, furniture and rent assistance." Majestic said when she first came to WHEAT in 2005, the annual distribution of unduplicated households was 1,850 residents. "This year it's approaching over 3,000 residents," she said. "The number had been growing steadily before the recession, but the economic downturn just made it worse."

WHEAT currently serves about 300 people per month out of its modest site at 674 Washington Avenue. The organization also has partnered the Head Start Program at the West Haven Community House and with the VA Hospital in the city to help returning and disabled veterans.

"We've seen a dramatic increase in the number of seniors who come in because they don't want to let their children know that they have fallen on hard times. During the summer, we saw a spike in families whose kids usually get school breakfast and lunch," Majestic said.

According to Luray Shepard, Connecticut Food Bank's Programs Director, WHEAT is a wonderful example of community collaboration.

"WHEAT is a great resource for the West Haven community. It works with other agencies in town to ensure all residents get the assistance they need. Offering space to the Saint Raphael's clinic is just another example of how they keep the needs of the community in mind," Shepard said.

To learn more about WHEAT, visit wheatpantry.org or call 203.931.9877 or e-mail wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net.

Pepperidge Farm Volunteers Participate in Hunger 101

Prior to volunteering at Connecticut Food Bank's Fairfield warehouse, Pepperidge Farm Norwalk employees take part in Hunger 101, an interactive, group learning experience that works to increase awareness of hunger and poverty. About 30 Pepperidge Farm employees have gone through the exercise of managing resources to get enough food to feed themselves and their families through visits to a simulated grocery store, food pantry or social service office. Additional Pepperidge Farm volunteers are scheduled to go through Hunger 101 in the coming months.

In addition to employee volunteer hours, Pepperidge Farm donated one year's worth of whole grain Goldfish crackers to Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' Backpack Program in Fairfield County. The Kids' Backpack Program provides nutritious food to children on the weekends when they aren't in school.

HOST A VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

A simple online interface transforms a personal computer into a Virtual Food Drive, allowing individuals, groups and businesses to effortlessly host a food drive to benefit Connecticut Food Bank. With a few clicks, donors view a food item and donate the purchase price of that item to Connecticut Food Bank. These funds are then used to purchase foods that are most needed by food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and adult and child day programs. Visit <http://ctfoodbank.org/fooddrives.php>

DID YOU KNOW?

\$.94 of every dollar donated to Connecticut Food Bank is used for program services.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING HUNGER 101?

Contact Connecticut Food Bank at cfb@ctfoodbank.org if your organization is interested in this interactive learning experience

for people age 12 and older. Participants face the challenge

of managing resources to get enough food to feed themselves and their family and see firsthand what it's like to struggle with poverty and hunger in Connecticut.



ShopRite Donates 6,100 Cans of Vegetables

Connecticut Food Bank recently received three pallets of canned vegetables from ShopRite in honor of the company's 40th Anniversary of the Can Can sale. A ShopRite truck, specially decorated with ShopRite's Can Can dancers for the occasion, delivered 6,100 cans of corn, mixed vegetables and peas to Connecticut Food Bank during the post-holiday season when food donations tend to decline.

Through its ShopRite Partners in Caring program founded in 2009, ShopRite has given more than \$24 million to food banks and has helped feed millions of people. The company donated a total of 40,000 cans to food banks in six states in honor of the Can Can sale.



CONNECTICUT foodbank

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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*Connecticut Food Bank welcomes
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to the Development Department.*

*If your name is incorrect or you are
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please call (203) 469-5000 or
e-mail cfb@ctfoodbank.org.*

Walmart employees award \$100,000 grant for new Mobile Pantry Program

Connecticut Food Bank began operating a Mobile Pantry in September 2010 to bring nutritional items to food insecure families and households. The new Mobile Pantry truck was purchased with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Now, thanks in large part to a \$100,000 grant from Walmart employees through the Walmart Foundation's Associate Choice Program, Connecticut Food Bank will be able to acquire food for the truck. Fresh food items such as dairy products, vegetables, fruit, whole grain goods and other perishable items will be available as the Mobile Pantry goes out to local communities.

"We are extremely grateful for this generous donation that makes a world of difference in the lives of people struggling with food insecurity in the communities we serve," said Nancy L. Carrington, President & CEO of Connecticut Food Bank. "Connecticut Food Bank is proud to be recognized by the Walmart Foundation's Associate Choice Program for the vital service that we, along with our volunteers and partners, provide to those in need on a daily basis."



Carrington said the Mobile Pantry Program helps people in need who may not have the transportation or financial means to access resources for fresh, nutritional products. She said people with limited means often stretch their food budgets by purchasing inexpensive,

high-calorie products. Local food-assistance programs may not have large-scale refrigeration and storage facilities for perishable foods. Those programs are limited to providing processed and non-perishable items.

"The Mobile Pantry Program allows recipients to select the fresh and healthy items they need from the pantry truck in their own neighborhoods," said Carrington. "For those that rely on food pantries, thanks again to the kindness and generosity of Walmart employees, perishable products are now available."

According to the latest figures from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Connecticut had one of the largest increases in food insecure households in the country since 2007. The Mobile Pantry Program will help Connecticut Food Bank address the needs of many of the food insecure residents in the state.

Thank you, Quota Club of New Haven!

Members of the Quota Club of New Haven have contributed more than 1,500 volunteer hours and raised nearly \$10,000 for Connecticut Food Bank over the last four years. The group originally approached the food bank to inquire if there were any volunteer opportunities that would match one of the club's international service missions — to help disadvantaged women and children — with the food bank's mission to alleviate hunger. As a result, the club was instrumental in the start up of Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' Backpack Program. Today, Quota Club members continue to volunteer three days each month to pack nutritious food for students to take home on the weekend when they do not have access to school meals. In addition, Quota Club members sort food items in the East Haven warehouse, as well as volunteer at a number of food drive events. We thank them for their invaluable service, funds and support.

