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**Connecticut Food Bank Receives \$100,000 Grant from Walmart Foundation
to Help Fund Kids' Backpack Program**

Program provides healthy weekend meals for students in low-income households

East Haven, CT – Connecticut Food Bank is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program. The proceeds will help fund the Connecticut Food Bank's vitally important Kids' Backpack Program, which benefits more than 1,700 students throughout the state.

Walmart doubled the \$50,000 grant amount requested by the Connecticut Food Bank to support the continuation and expansion of the Kids' Backpack Program which began as a pilot program six years ago to provide nutritious, supplemental food for low-income children.

"Doubling the amount of this grant shows a further commitment from the Walmart Foundation to help fight the food-insecurity issues facing so many children in this state," said Nancy L. Carrington, Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Food Bank. "Chronic hunger has an overall affect on the health and education of one in six Connecticut children. We are extremely grateful to the Walmart Foundation for helping us provide these children with weekend access to healthy food to help them learn and grow."

Carrington says the program serves 65 schools in 15 towns including Branford, Bridgeport, Danbury, East Haven, Middletown, New Haven, Norwalk, Plainfield, Putnam, Stratford, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury, West Haven and Winsted.

“We believe your organization is doing important work in the communities you serve, and we are proud that we are able to support you in your efforts. Thank you for the work your organization does to create opportunities so people can live better,” cited the Walmart Foundation representative in written correspondence to the Connecticut Food Bank.

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.

***Connecticut Food Bank** serves 650 emergency feeding programs in six of Connecticut's eight counties: Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham. Connecticut Food Bank distributes 30 tons of food every business day.*

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