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**Dunkin' Donuts Employees Pack Thousands of Bags for
Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' BackPack Program**

East Haven, CT – Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' BackPack Program got a boost this week from 300 Dunkin' Donuts corporate employees who filled more than 7,500 backpacks with healthy meals for the Kids' BackPack Program, which provides nutritious food on the weekends to more than 2,000 Connecticut children. In addition, The Dunkin Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation presented Connecticut Food Bank with a \$6,000 donation to support the program. This is the second consecutive year the event was held at the Mohegan Sun Arena as a "competition" among teams of Dunkin' Donuts employees.

"Connecticut Food Bank is grateful for the ongoing support of the Kids' BackPack Program by Dunkin' Donuts employees and The Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation," said Nancy L. Carrington, Connecticut Food Bank's President & CEO. "This gift will sustain this vital program that provides supplemental weekend nutrition to children who are food-insecure. And the employees who worked so hard to fill thousands of bags of nutritious food should be proud. They played a crucial part in ensuring that children who are at risk of hunger have access to healthy food on weekends when they do not have access to school meals."

According to an August 2011 Feeding America study:

- Nearly 19 percent, or almost one in five of Connecticut's children are at risk of hunger
- That means nearly 110,000 children statewide do not always know where their next meal is coming from.

The larger problem is half of the children living in food insecure households in Connecticut are not eligible for federal child nutrition programs – such as SNAP (food stamps), reduced-price school meals and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) - because their families earn incomes over the threshold to qualify.

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The Kids' Backpack Program plans to serve 109 schools in 18 Connecticut towns in the 2011-2012 school year. A typical bag of food includes two each of packages of milk, 100 percent fruit juice, two whole grain cereals, two high-nutrition entrees and two low-fat, low sugar snacks.

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Connecticut Food Bank serves approximately 600 community-based feeding programs in six of Connecticut's eight counties: Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham. Connecticut Food Bank distributes an average of 33 tons of food every business day.