



CONNECTICUT FOOD NEWS

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WE'VE MOVED!

The new Connecticut Food Bank headquarters and distribution center at 2 Research Parkway in Wallingford is making a transformative difference in our ability to feed hungry people in Connecticut. Increased capacity and state-of-the-art technology in the 84,000 square foot, purpose-built facility allow us to provide a greater quantity and wider variety of fresh, nutritious foods for some 700 partners and programs serving children, families, veterans and seniors. Warehouse space is more than double the square footage of the two former Connecticut Food Bank buildings in East Haven and Waterbury combined. Our Fairfield location at 74 Linwood Avenue remains open.

The larger, more energy efficient building helps us maximize financial donations by increasing our buying and food

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MEMBER PROGRAMS TOUR NEW BUILDING

Nearly 100 representatives from Connecticut Food Bank member programs toured our new Wallingford headquarters and distribution center at an Open House on November 12. Visitors saw first-hand how we are using this state-of-the-art building to increase the amount and type of nutritious food and fresh produce we distribute through some 700 partners and programs to hungry people in the 127 cities and towns we serve.

Our new distribution center has significantly increased food storage as well as tripling cold storage capacity compared to our East Haven and Waterbury facilities. Guests had the opportunity to tour the center, from the food sorting room, to our efficient refrigeration units, to our community engagement room.

"I love the cold storage facility," said Erin Parfitt of Perception Programs, Inc. in Willimantic. "Everything stays cold from delivery which is good for food safety."

Linda Sirochman of the Beth El Soup Kitchen in Milford was particularly impressed with the amount of space. The Connecticut Food Bank accounts for 75 percent of the resources for her pantry.



"I was interested in all the food and produce that's stored," Linda said. "It's so impressive to see how many racks you expect to fill in the warehouse. I was only coming on a monthly basis but now I want to come on a weekly basis."

Despite our ability to distribute more food, need continues to outstrip supply. Pastor Kevin Mongeau from Hands of Grace in New Hartford hopes to see more availability of food from the new distribution center.

"We're looking for more canned goods, more vegetables and bread that we've seen a shortage of," Pastor Mongeau said. "It looks very efficient here with the state-of-the-art fridges."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Happy new year! And that's not the only thing new here at the Connecticut Food Bank. You will read in this newsletter that we have moved into our new, 84,000 square foot headquarters and distribution center in Wallingford, which has opened new opportunities for us to help our local partners and programs alleviate hunger in communities across the state. This newsletter offers my first opportunity to introduce myself as the new Board Chair at the Connecticut Food Bank. It is an honor to work with a talented and dedicated Board of Directors alongside the skilled staff and a corps of more than

4,000 community volunteers. Together with your generous support, we are fulfilling the mission of the Connecticut Food Bank to provide nutritious food to people in need.

As we enter a new era at the Connecticut Food Bank, ushered in by our state-of-the-art building and the possibilities it creates, I hope you will be inspired to lend us your support as donors and volunteers. It is only with your help that we are able to put food on the table for more than 300,000 hungry people in Connecticut.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Hutchinson".

Alex Hutchinson
Board Chair



GEARING UP FOR SUMMER

It may be wintry, but at the Connecticut Food Bank, we have our minds on summer and meeting the increased demand for food when school is out and families who rely on free or reduced-price meals for children have a significant meal gap to fill.

One in five Connecticut children is food insecure. A family with two children must provide more than 200 extra meals during summer vacation when they don't have access to school meals. That's a difficult task for most low-income families.

To help meet this summer meal gap, the Connecticut Food Bank partnered last year with the City of New Haven on a project we will expand this summer. Our GROW Truck will once again travel with the New Haven Summer Meals truck to local distribution sites. Families with children under age 18 visiting the Summer Meals truck will be able to shop the GROW Truck, stocked with fresh fruit and vegetables, low-fat dairy products, meat, fish and other healthy proteins, to help children fuel their developing minds and bodies.

Last summer, the GROW Truck provided food for more than 1,200 meals over 16 distributions at four meal sites in New Haven.



The GROW Truck is made possible through a grant from Our Family Foundation by Stop & Shop. To learn more, visit <http://www.ctfoodbank.org/get-help/programs/>



PROVIDING THANKSGIVING FOR ALL

Thank you to the many individuals, businesses and community- and faith-based organizations that helped support their neighbors by donating turkeys, trimmings, and funds to help make the holidays special for people in need. Food to provide more than 515,000 meals was donated and distributed by Connecticut Food Bank member programs in our six county service area.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to all of our volunteers, including members of the U. S. Coast Guard, Sector Long Island Sound, who returned again to help during our peak distribution days ahead of the holiday. All who assisted with food drives, donation sorting, packaging and deliveries were part of the special feeling behind Thanksgiving For All. More information about Thanksgiving For All is available on www.ctfoodbank.org/ThanksgivingForAll



Harvard Pilgrim
Health Care Foundation



Grant Puts Fresh Produce in Reach for Hungry People

A \$40,000 grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation will increase the amount of donated, local produce available to community members supported by the Connecticut Food Bank.

The Healthy Food Fund grant will support a Farm-to-Pantry program that helps farmers harvest excess crops for donation to the Connecticut Food Bank. Connecticut's nonprofit leader in the fight against hunger, the Connecticut Food Bank works with Connecticut food growers to source fresh produce for some 700 partners and programs that work to alleviate hunger for more than 300,000 people in six Connecticut counties.

"Thanks to the vision and support of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, hungry Connecticut residents will have access to more nutritional produce," said Connecticut Food Bank Interim CEO Paul O'Leary.

O'Leary said many Connecticut farmers want to donate more produce but are challenged to harvest and transport time-intensive crops for donation. "The Farm-to-Pantry program helps us source highly desirable and nutritious produce and reduce food waste."

More than 30 percent of the food distributed by the Connecticut Food Bank is fresh produce, in high demand by community-based food programs because of its nutritional value. "Locally grown food has so many benefits as we help our neighbors, strengthen our communities and support our farmers," O'Leary said.

The Connecticut Food Bank distributes food through a network of partner agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, residential and day care programs in six Connecticut Counties. The Connecticut Food Bank also directly distributes food through its Mobile Pantry program; its GROW Up With Good Nutrition program for families with young children; the Kids' Backpack program to bridge the weekend meal gap for children receiving free meals at school; and a supplemental foods program for income-limited seniors.



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sourcing power. For each dollar donated, we are able to provide enough food to prepare two meals.

We have more room to engage volunteers, helping us grow the ranks of advocates and team members who help us to support feeding programs across six Connecticut counties. We are able to continue and expand support of our current Kids' Backpack, Mobile Pantry and GROW Truck programs, as well as explore new opportunities to offer satisfying volunteer experiences and develop new programs.

For more on the new facility visit www.ctfoodbank.org.

THANK YOU...

To the following individuals, corporations and organizations that made donations of \$5,000 or more between July 1, 2015 and December 21, 2015.

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HUNGER 101

To give Connecticut residents a better understanding of food insecurity in this state, we offer Hunger 101, an interactive learning experience available free of charge to interested individuals or groups at the Connecticut Food Bank or at your location. Our trained volunteer facilitators outline the difficulties one in seven households in the state face putting food on the table for their families.

Participants walk in someone else's shoes and experience firsthand the struggle with poverty and food insecurity. In many cases, families must choose between paying home and utility bills and paying for their next meal. And more than a quarter million people in Connecticut who are food insecure do not qualify for federal assistance.

Hunger 101 is a learning experience for people age 12 and older. Designed for groups of 12 to 30 participants, the Connecticut Food Bank can deliver the program at your



site or at our distribution center at 2 Research Parkway in Wallingford. The experience can be adapted for a 45- or 90-minute delivery. To participate as an individual or as a group, contact Director of Community Engagement Sarah Morocco at 203-469-5000 ext. 302 or email her at smorocco@ctfoodbank.org.

CONNECTICUT
FOOD BANK MEMBER OF **FEEDING AMERICA**

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The Connecticut Food Bank welcomes questions, comments and ideas. All correspondence should be addressed to the Development Department. If your name is incorrect or you are receiving duplicate mailings, please call 203.469.5000 or email cfb@ctfoodbank.org.

FEEDING AMERICA



Connecticut Food Bank is a partner of Feeding America, a nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs that provides food and services to more than 46 million people each year.