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For Immediate Release

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Connecticut Food Bank Helps Letter Carriers *Stamp Out Hunger* on May 14

Nation's Largest Single-Day Food Collection Helps Americans Facing Hunger

East Haven, CT -- Connecticut Food Bank is joining the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) on Saturday, May 14, to *Stamp Out Hunger*. The *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive is the nation's largest single-day food drive, representing 1,500 local branches of the postal union. Letter carriers across the country are collecting non-perishable food donations that day along their postal routes.

Held annually on the second Saturday in May, the event helps replenish food banks and pantries in more than 10,000 communities. Last year the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive collected a record 77.1 million pounds of food donations, pushing the 18-year total to more than one billion pounds of food.

"Connecticut Food Bank is glad to assist the letter carriers in Bridgeport, East Haven, Hamden, Stratford and Waterbury in their efforts to help us alleviate hunger in Connecticut," said Nancy L. Carrington, Connecticut Food Bank's president and CEO. "This food drive is important because recent data tells us that 52 percent of the nearly 400,000 people in Connecticut who struggle with hunger do not qualify for financial assistance. They are going to our network of food pantries and soup kitchens for help." Over the last five years, the food drive has donated 109,500 pounds of food to Connecticut Food Bank.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive by leaving a sturdy bag containing non-perishable food items, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fish or meats, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox prior to the regular mail delivery time on Saturday, May 14. Letter carriers are collecting these food donations as they deliver the mail and are taking them to a local agency or Connecticut Food Bank.

Campbell's Soup is again donating one pound of food (up to one million pounds) to the Feeding America food bank network for every person who joins the *Stamp Out Hunger* cause on Facebook. You can trigger a donation by visiting www.Facebook.com/StampOutHunger.

The need for food assistance across America has never been greater. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual study measuring food security in the United States, the number of Americans living in a food insecure home surpassed 50 million in 2009 (the most recent year that such data is available). Perhaps most alarming is that approximately one-third of those at risk of hunger are children (17.2 million). In Connecticut, one in six children does not know where their next meal is coming from.

Connecticut Food Bank is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to alleviate hunger. The organization supplies food products and resources to eligible programs throughout six of Connecticut's eight counties and promotes public awareness about the problem of hunger. Founded in 1982, the Food Bank is the largest centralized source of emergency food in Connecticut.

Also supporting the drive as national partners are the U.S. Postal Service, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, Valpak, the AFL-CIO, United Way Worldwide, and Uncle Bob's Self Storage.

For more information about the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive in Connecticut, ask a letter carrier, contact a local post office, or visit www.helpstampouthunger.com, www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger, or www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger.

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Connecticut Food Bank serves approximately 600 local emergency food assistance 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.