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**Waterbury Area Businesses and Organizations  
Collect Food for Local Pantries**

***Announcement made at United Way Day of Action: Stock the Pantry***

**Waterbury, CT, June 21, 2012** – The shelves of Waterbury area food pantries will be replenished thanks to the generosity of 37 businesses and organizations that participated in the annual United Way Day of Action: Stock the Pantry food drive. The United Way of Greater Waterbury and The Greater Waterbury Emergency Food Resource Council made the announcement today at Connecticut Food Bank’s Waterbury warehouse.

During the months of May and June, local companies and organizations held food drives at their workplace to collect high protein foods and items for easy to prepare meals for those who struggle with hunger in the Greater Waterbury area.

“Local food banks are facing shortages and are in need of donations throughout the summer months when children – many of whom regularly received free or reduced lunch during the school year – are on summer break,” said Kristen Jacoby, president of the United Way of Greater Waterbury. “The United Way’s Day of Action: Stock the Pantry was created to not only help those served by community food pantries, but to increase awareness about the problem of hunger right here in Connecticut.”

According to recent data released by Feeding America, nearly 14 percent of Connecticut’s residents, and 1 in 5 of Connecticut’s children are food insecure.

“It is through the generosity of efforts like Stock the Pantry that Connecticut Food Bank can do its work to feed the more than 300,000 people who rely on our network of food-assistance programs,” said Nancy L. Carrington, Connecticut Food Bank’s president and CEO. “We thank the United Way, the Emergency Food Resource Council and the organizations for collecting food to provide needed meals to families who are at risk of hunger in the Greater Waterbury area.”

Among the items collected by participants in the Stock the Pantry Food Drive were tuna, soups, stews, peanut butter, jelly, cereal and oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, rice and shelf stable milk.

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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 an average of 33 tons of food every business day.

**The United Way of Greater Waterbury** is a leader in facilitating the identification of regional needs and supporting solutions. UWGW works to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life – a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and ensuring that the most basic needs are met. UWGW has been mobilizing the caring power of community since 1942 in its 10-town region of Bethlehem, Cheshire, Middlebury, Prospect, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Woodbury and Wolcott.

**The Emergency Food Resource Committee** is a collaborative initiative, spearheaded by the United Way of Greater Waterbury, to assess the needs of our area food pantries and soup kitchens and provides assurance that our most vulnerable citizens are not without access to food. The committee's work is a collective approach to issues such as food stamp utilization, food selection and quantity at Connecticut Food Bank, increased need during the holidays, case management practices and access to other human service information.