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## **Morgan Stanley Grants Additional Funds to Connecticut Food Bank with Awards Totaling \$100,000**

***Grant brings needed support to Kids' Backpack Program***

**East Haven, CT** - Connecticut Food Bank was recently presented a \$50,000 grant from Morgan Stanley to fund its Kids' Backpack Program, a child hunger initiative that helps to make sure kids are fed outside of school hours. This grant is the third gift Connecticut Food Bank has received from Morgan Stanley, bringing the total to \$100,000.

The grant is part of the latest phase in Morgan Stanley's more than \$14 million commitment to Feeding America and its network of 200 local food banks that distribute millions of meals every year to children and families across the United States. As part of the initiative, Morgan Stanley will award more than \$4 million over three years to local food banks like Connecticut Food Bank to launch, expand and sustain critical childhood feeding programs.

"We are grateful that Morgan Stanley has stepped forward another time to fund our efforts to deliver nutritious meals to children and families in need," said Nancy L. Carrington, Connecticut Food Bank's President & CEO. "Morgan Stanley is a terrific partner and we are grateful for this grant, as well as for the Morgan Stanley volunteers who show their support by volunteering many hours for Connecticut Food Bank."

Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' Backpack Program puts nutritious food directly into the hands of children at risk of hunger by filling backpacks at the end of the school week with nutritious food. Items include two shelf-stable milks, two 100 percent fruit juices, ready to eat meals, pasta, soup, whole-grain cereal and healthy snacks. The program enables children who are eligible for reduced-price or free lunch at school to get the nutrition they need on weekends when they do not have access to school meals.

"We are honored to be able to help Connecticut Food Bank once again in its important fight against child hunger," said Morgan Stanley First Vice President Mike Finneran. "Giving back to the communities where we live and work is one of Morgan Stanley's core values."

Nationwide, child hunger is a critical problem. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, nearly 16 million children in the U.S. lack consistent access to the minimum amounts of nutritious food considered necessary for a healthy life. In Connecticut, more than 155,000 children are struggling with hunger. Feeding America's most recent Map the Meal Gap research indicates more than one in five children in 37 states and Washington D.C. do not have access to enough nutritious food to learn, grow and thrive.

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**Connecticut Food Bank** serves nearly 700 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 40 tons of food every business day.