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Connecticut Food Bank's "Thanksgiving for All" Campaign Under Way

Thousands of families to benefit from food and fund drives this holiday season

East Haven, CT - Connecticut Food Bank is once again partnering with local media, grocery stores and businesses for its 2014 "Thanksgiving for All" campaign, a series of special events, food drives and fundraisers to benefit individuals and families in need of food assistance during the holiday season and the cold winter months that follow.

In addition, Connecticut Food Bank has launched a Thanksgiving for All virtual food drive, an internet-based program which allows individuals to make monetary donations so Connecticut Food Bank can purchase the specific food items that are most needed. With just a \$10 donation, Connecticut Food Bank can feed a person for an entire week. The Thanksgiving for All Virtual Food Drive can be found at www.ctfoodbank.org/thanksgiving.

Turkeys and "trimmings" collected will be distributed by Connecticut Food Bank to food-assistance programs in the days before Thanksgiving. The funds are being used purchase additional holiday food and for the distribution of the donated food throughout Connecticut.

"The recent 2014 Hunger in America study shows Connecticut families who turn to our food-assistance network continue to make tough choices," said Nancy L. Carrington, President & CEO of Connecticut Food Bank. "Of our client households, 73 percent report that in the last year they were forced to choose between paying for food or utilities, and 68 percent are deciding between paying for food or medicine. Because the soup kitchens and food pantries we serve continue to experience increased requests for their services, Connecticut Food Bank is working to make sure those who are struggling can have a holiday meal, or any meal, this time of year."

"Thanksgiving for All 2014" Food and Fund Drive events include:

- **99.1 WPLR Sam Tilery Food Drives.** Join WPLR on two consecutive Fridays this month as they collect food and funds to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for those in need.

Friday, November 14, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Connecticut Service Plaza – 95 North and South in Branford
Connecticut Service Plaza – 95 North and South in Darien

Friday, November 21, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.:
Adam's Hometown Market in Derby, Milford and Deep River

- **Star 99.9 Holiday Helpers.** 9 a.m. to noon.
- Stop & Shop, Newtown, 228 S Main Street, November 14
- Stop & Shop, Stamford, 1937 West Main Street, November 15
- Stop & Shop, Milford, 855 Bridgeport Avenue, November 16

- **Fill the Bowl at Yale Bowl.** Saturday, November 15. Support Connecticut Food Bank by donating a frozen turkey, a bag of groceries or \$15 and receive two tickets to the Yale vs. Princeton game! Collection takes place when gates open until halftime. Kick-off at noon. Yale Bowl, 250 Derby Avenue, New Haven.
- **KC 101 Stuff-a-Bus.** November 20 & 21 at Hamden Plaza Dixwell Avenue, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **WATR Big Hearts at Big Y.** Food and Fund Drive on Saturday, November 22, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Big Y, Bridge Street, Naugatuck.
- **NBC Connecticut Food & Fund Drive.** Xfinity Store (opening soon) at Universal Drive North in North Haven, Saturday, November 22, 9 a.m. to noon.

Connecticut Food Bank Fund Drives include:

- Check out Hunger. Price Chopper, ShopRite, Kings and Balducci's stores through December 27, 2014. Add \$1, \$3 or \$5 donation tag to your grocery bill and the funds will be donated to Connecticut Food Bank.

Last year, Connecticut Food Bank distributed enough turkeys and trimmings to provide nearly 600,000 meals for people in need during the holiday season. Every food and fund drive is critical, not only to collect food and funds, but to increase awareness about the ongoing problem of hunger and poverty that many Connecticut residents continue to face. One out of every seven households in Connecticut is struggling to keep food on the table.

In addition, Connecticut Food Bank warehouses in East Haven, Fairfield and Waterbury will have extended holiday hours to accept food and monetary donations from the public. Visit www.ctfoodbank.org for holiday hours and directions.

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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.