Donations of funds, food and time are the power behind the Connecticut Food Bank. We can’t fulfill our mission without these gifts. Every donation is vital, but sometimes the gift of time is harder to understand. Thanks to research by Independent Sector, a leadership network and information resource for nonprofit organizations, we can chart that value. Last year, volunteers gave 28,170 hours of service to the Connecticut Food Bank. Independent Sector values that hourly service at $27.77. In other words, volunteers provided time valued at more than $782,000 last year.

Volunteers give us time and skills that improve our work and strengthen our capacity to serve people in need. In the last five years, volunteers have given 103,832 hours to the Connecticut Food Bank, providing more than $2.8 million in value that enables us to convert personnel savings into food for hungry people in Connecticut.

Connecticut Food Bank volunteers come from communities across the state and represent many ages, backgrounds and experiences. In addition to individuals, we receive support from myriad volunteer groups, including corporate partners, civic and educational institutions, faith communities and uniformed services. Nearly 180 groups volunteered with us in 2016.

To the thousands of volunteers who work with us throughout the year, sorting food, delivering food, opening mail, providing research, presenting Hunger 101 trainings and so much more… thank you. Your work is the foundation of our service.
Summer Meals Help Children Grow

Summer conjures images of vacations, cookouts and time with family and friends.

But for many in Connecticut, summer brings stress. When their children are out of school, families that struggle to make ends meet may be unable to make up the meal gap their children face without access to free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches at school. For each child, that gap can be as many 150 meals. They must cope with having to provide those extra meals — or risk their child’s physical, educational and emotional development by failing to do it.

Last summer, the Connecticut Food Bank piloted a program to help children and families access the food they need during the summer. The summer suppers Mobile Pantry operated at six sites in New Haven for a period of eight weeks. We partnered with the New Haven Public Schools, which provided a hot meals distribution for school children. By working together, we provided important fresh foods to help families in need.

In all, there were more than 1,900 visits to the sites by households during the eight weeks we operated, despite some distributions impacted by heavy rain and thunderstorms. Nearly 4,600 individuals received food; more than half of those individuals were children.

Over the course of the summer, we distributed more than 72,400 pounds of food, 76% of that food being fresh produce, including grapes, strawberries, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, peaches and more, as well as fresh bread. Twenty-seven volunteers contributed more than 76 hours of service, helping set up the sites, distribute food to visitors and clean up after each distribution.

We hope to build on this program for the summer ahead and find ways to help more children and families in New Haven and throughout our service area get access to the fresh, nutritious food they need.

Visit ctfoodbank.org in late spring for more information about summer programs.

Food For Thought

Our mission is simple: to provide nutritious food to people in need. But the work is complicated. The Connecticut Food Bank serves more than 650 local, grass-roots food assistance programs and operates additional programs to fill the gaps in geography and capacity across our six-county service area. We rely on donations and the help of volunteers to do this.

Thousands of volunteers provided more than 28,000 hours of service and expertise in 2016, worth nearly $800,000 to the Connecticut Food Bank. For that value, and the priceless passion for our mission comes with each hour given, I offer thanks on behalf of the Connecticut Food Bank staff and the hundreds of thousands of hungry people you help each year.

If you have not yet joined us, I hope you will consider a pledge to volunteer in 2017 to add the power and value of your time to our mission. Visit ctfoodbank.org/volunteer to learn more.

Sincerely,

Bernie Beaudreau
CEO
SPRING EVENTS AT CONNECTICUT FOOD BANK

Special events are springing up at the Connecticut Food Bank! Between April and June, we will host a new corporate partners event, our 40th annual Walk Against Hunger in Greater New Haven, and our 2nd annual Miles for Meals 5K race in Norwalk.

Connecticut businesses are invited to show their muscle in the fight to end hunger by joining the Golden Scoop Corporate Championship on Friday, April 21, at the Connecticut Food Bank headquarters and distribution center in Wallingford.

Businesses will test their speed and skill packaging bags of pasta for distribution to programs that are part of the Connecticut Food Bank network to feed hungry people in our state.

Teams of up to 20 members may compete in the championship. Teams currently registered include Stop & Shop, Webster Bank, Burns & McDonnell and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

For sponsorship and participation information, contact Michael Davidow at (203) 741-9211, email him at mdavidow@ctfoodbank.org or visit ctfoodbank.org/goldenscoop.

This year our Walk Against Hunger returns to New Haven, on Sunday, April 23, at Lighthouse Point Park. This popular event brings hundreds of walkers out in support of Connecticut Food Bank programs and services. Groups can form teams to raise funds using tools available at ctfoodfoodbank.org/walk. For additional information, including available sponsorships, call Kerri Burgerhoff at (203) 741-9204, or email her at kburgerhoff@ctfoodbank.org.

If a walk in the park is not enough for you, consider joining us for our 2nd annual Connecticut Food Bank Miles For Meals 5K Race on Sunday, June 4, at 8:00AM, at Veterans Park in Norwalk. A post-race party and awards presentations immediately follow the race. More information is available at ctfoodbank.org/5K. For additional information, including available sponsorships, call Kerri Burgerhoff at (203) 741-9204, or email her at kburgerhoff@ctfoodbank.org.
To the following individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations who made donations of $5,000 or more between July 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

- A-1 Toyota
- Harry & Manette Adams
- The Alice Lawrence Foundation, Inc.
- Almira Family Foundation
- American Cruise Lines, Inc.
- American Natural Soda Ash Corp.
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Connecticut
- Mr. & Mrs. David Atlas
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Bedoukian Research Inc.
- Beyman Family Foundation
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Richard & Marilyn Buel
- John & June Caldwell
- The Carl Marks Foundation, Inc.
- Joseph Cassano & Ellen Hooker
- Charles A. Frueauff Foundation
- Club Corvette of Connecticut
- Connecticut Bar Association
- Connecticut Container Corporation
- Connecticut Credit Unions Charitable Foundation
- CrossBay Capital Partners
- D’Addario Family Foundation
- Estate of Peter J. Davis
- Thea Duell & Peter Cook
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Fairfield County Bank
- Feeding America
- Alan & Betty Feldman
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- General Electric Foundation
- Genworth Foundation
- The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust
- William & Jean Graustein
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
- Healthcare Foundation Trust
- Harriet G. Heineman
- Helen & William Mazer Foundation
- The Helen Breznick Testamentary Charitable Trust
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- Hopkins School, Inc.
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- Josh Jernigan
- Klein Family Foundation
- John & Anne-Marie Knight
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- L6 Foundation
- Marta Jo Lawrence
- The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust
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- Thomas & Janice Luddy
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- NewAlliance Foundation, Inc.
- Robert & Claire Newbold
- PartnerRe U.S.
- John & Paula Pritchard
- The Dick & Bernice Ramsey Charitable Fund
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- John & Lupi Robinson
- Schaefer Inspection Service
- Matthew & Jennifer Schiffman
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- Lynn & Jon Schriber
- Dr. & Mrs. John Seibyl
- ShopRite
- Robie & Scott Spector
- Estate of Orris H. Stark
- Paul & Valerie Street
- TD Charitable Foundation
- The TJX Companies, Inc.
- The TJX Foundation, Inc.
- Christel Truglia
- U.S. Trust, Bank of America Foundation
- United Way of Western Connecticut, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Van den Broek
- Walmart Foundation
- Webster Bank
- Robert Wechsler & Emily Aber
- Peter Kend & Katherine Wehrle
- Wings For Things Foundation
- Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky, LLP
- The Zide Family Foundation

Make a Lasting Impact on Hunger With a Planned Gift to the Connecticut Food Bank

Many people believe that planned gifts are made only by the wealthy. The fact is bequests are made by people from every income level and walk of life who want to make a lasting, positive impact on communities or causes important to them. Gifts by will are a wonderful way to support the Connecticut Food Bank and a powerful demonstration to others of your commitment to the hunger relief mission of our work. If you want to learn more about planned giving to support our work, visit ctfoodbank.org/ways-to-give or contact Cheryl Thompson at (203) 741-9207.

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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 Sue Moore at (203) 741-9078 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.