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## **Connecticut Food Bank Wins Morgan Stanley Award to Expand Program Delivering Nutritious Meals to Children and Families**

### ***\$25,000 Grant Will Support "Kids' Backpack Program"***

**EAST HAVEN, CT** — Connecticut Food Bank today announced a \$25,000 grant from Morgan Stanley to fund its *Kids' Backpack Program*, a child hunger initiative that helps to make sure kids are fed when they aren't in school.

The local award is the latest phase of *Fill the Plate*, Morgan Stanley's long-standing partnership with Feeding America, the nation's leading hunger-relief charity. In total, Morgan Stanley has committed more than \$13 million for the Feeding America network to distribute millions of meals to children and families across all 50 states. As part of that initiative, Morgan Stanley will award more than \$1 million each year for the next four years to local food banks, like Connecticut Food Bank to launch, expand and sustain critical childhood feeding programs.

"We are thrilled to receive this important grant from Morgan Stanley to fund our efforts to deliver nutritious food to children," said Nancy L. Carrington, Connecticut Food Bank's President & CEO. "What's extraordinary about this award is that we were able to choose how to use the funds in a way that best matches the nutritional health needs of the local community."

Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' Backpack Program works by putting nutritious food directly into the hands of children at risk of hunger by filling bags with food items that are nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable and ready to eat with little or no cooking such as 100 percent fruit juice, shelf stable milk, protein items, cereal and nutritious snacks. Through this program, children who usually receive reduced price or free lunch at school can get the nutrition they need on weekends or long school breaks.

"Giving back to the communities where we live and work is one of Morgan Stanley's core values," said Cathy Galgano, Complex Manager, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Northern Connecticut. "As Morgan Stanley employees in Connecticut, we are proud of our firm's grant to Connecticut Food Bank, especially since so many of us are also long-time volunteers at this important community organization."

Nationwide, child hunger is a critical problem. According to the US Department of Agriculture, about 16 million children are at risk of going hungry. About one in five children under the age of 18 don't have access to enough nutritious food to learn, grow and thrive.

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*Connecticut Food Bank serves more than 650 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 34 tons of food every business day.*