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Connecticut Food Bank wins national award for excellence in food banking

Award recognizes resource development efforts

(NASHVILLE, TN) - Connecticut Food Bank received a 2013 Excellence in Food Banking Award for Resource Development at the annual Feeding America Network Executive Directors' Forum being held this week in Nashville. The award is given to the year's most outstanding resource development program from the 202 food banks across the nation in the Feeding America network.

Judges awarded the distinction to Connecticut Food Bank for its fundraising efforts in the past year. In particular, the judges noted the food bank's push to expand its donor base.

Connecticut Food Bank's work has proven successful, with public support for its work to alleviate hunger more than doubling over the past five years. The food bank also was recognized for its efforts in Fairfield County where financial support from individuals has grown.

The food bank's online virtual food drives have also increased - with double digit growth in just one year.

"Connecticut Food Bank continues to show why it's a leader in our Network," said Bob Aiken, President and CEO of Feeding America, the nation's leading hunger relief charity. "This award shows the innovation and creativity of the food bank's staff to help fight hunger in their community."

"This honor really belongs to the people of Connecticut who have shown outstanding compassion during a challenging economy," said Nancy L. Carrington, President and CEO of Connecticut Food Bank. "Their generosity provides hope to our neighbors who struggle with hunger."

Founded in 1982, Connecticut Food Bank is the largest centralized source of emergency food in Connecticut. Through warehouses in East Haven, Fairfield and Waterbury, and affiliated distribution centers in New London and Stamford, the food bank provides food products to approximately 600 soup

kitchens, shelters, food pantries and child and adult day programs in Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham counties.

In 2012, the food bank distributed 17 million pounds of groceries, the equivalent of more than 14 million meals.

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that there are more than 490,000 Connecticut residents who are food insecure.

More information about Connecticut Food Bank can be found at www.ctfoodbank.org.

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Connecticut Food Bank serves approximately 600 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 34 tons of food every business day.

Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks support 61,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit <http://www.feedingamerica.org>. Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/FeedingAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/FeedingAmerica) or follow our news on Twitter at twitter.com/FeedingAmerica.