***For Immediate Release***

**Connecticut Food Bank Partners with HungerMitao to   
Address the Alarming Increase in the Need for Food in Connecticut**

**WALLINGFORD, CONN., June 8, 2020** — Connecticut Food Bank and HungerMitao are teaming up to engage the local Indian American community to help feed Connecticut residents struggling with hunger during this critical time.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented economic challenges for our communities,” said Beverly Catchpole, Senior Director of Development for Connecticut Food Bank. “We are excited to partner with the HungerMitao (*translation: wipe out hunger*) movement that has already made an amazing impact at several food banks across North America through community engagement. We know that the need will exist well beyond the pandemic, and we are thrilled that Connecticut Food Bank will be able to engage ongoing support of the Indian American community in our work, right here in Connecticut.” Catchpole said.

Raj and Aradhana (Anna) Asava, the founders of the “HungerMitao” movement in America, are working tirelessly to raise awareness in the 4 million strong Indian diaspora in the US of the alarming issue of hunger in this nation and the excellent work done by the Feeding America network of food banks in the fight against hunger.

“Having enabled over 15 million meals to-date through five food banks, HungerMitao is proud to partner with the Connecticut Food Bank to help raise funds for the food challenged especially in this time of crisis,” said Raj Asava. “HungerMitao is a grassroots initiative engaging the Indian American community directly with their local food bank in the fight against hunger. We look forward to a formal HungerMitao launch at CFB as conditions become favorable.” Anna Asava added.

COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc in the lives of children, seniors, veterans, and families already struggling with hunger in the six counties served by Connecticut Food Bank. Now, more people are seeking food assistance, many of them for the first time as a result of the pandemic. To help the food bank during this crisis, HungerMitao is launching a “Food for COVID-19 Impacted” fundraiser and invites the Indian American community members to, in the spirit of “give where you live,” donate to Connecticut Food Bank through this link: [www.ctfoodbank.org/HungerMitao](http://www.ctfoodbank.org/HungerMitao).

“In these unprecedented times, it is the community that must step up to help get beyond this crisis while playing an important role in ensuring no one goes hungry in today’s day and age,” Connecticut Food Bank Chief Operating Officer, Dan Gomez said. “Connecticut Food Bank seeks deeper engagement with the Indian American community in the fight against hunger through the HungerMitao movement.”

***About Connecticut Food Bank:***

*Connecticut Food Bank distributes food through a network of 500 partners and programs in Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham counties, representing 71% of the state’s population and where 65% of the state’s food insecure – nearly 270,000 people – struggle with hunger. Last year, Connecticut Food Bank distributed food to help provide 22.5 million meals. Connecticut Food Bank is committed to alleviating hunger in Connecticut by providing food resources, raising awareness of the challenges of hunger, and advocating for people who struggle with food insecurity. Connecticut Food Bank partners with the food industry, food growers, donors, and volunteers to distribute nutritious food to people in need. Visit us on the web at* [*www.ctfoodbank.org*](www.ctfoodbank.org)*, like us on* [*Facebook*](http://www.facebook.com/ctfoodbank) *and follow @CTFoodBank on* [*Twitter*](http://www.twitter.com/ctfoodbank) *and* [*Instagram*](http://www.instagram.com/ctfoodbank)*.*

***About HungerMitao:***

*HungerMitao is a volunteer-driven grassroot movement dedicated to raising awareness about hunger in the USA, improve community engagement, as well as channel resources and contributions of the Indian American community to fighting hunger through the Feeding America network of food banks. Over the two years since its launch, the Indian American community has enabled more than 15 million meals working with North Texas Food Bank, Houston Food Bank, Food Bank for New York City, Atlanta Community Food Bank, and Seattle Food Lifeline. Learn more about HungerMitao at* [*www.hungermitao.org*](www.hungermitao.org).

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