

Monday, November 23, 2015

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***Thanksgiving is a Holiday for Everyone***  
***And thanks to YOU, everyone will join in the celebration!***

**Progress Towards Goal:**

**WE DID IT!!** As of 3:00 p.m. today, Foodshare has received enough turkeys to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 16,188 Greater Hartford individuals and families. The generous people of our region have also donated \$511,540 to help feed these families all year long, and build lasting solutions to hunger.

(Photos are available online at [site.foodshare.org/Turkeyand30](http://site.foodshare.org/Turkeyand30))

**News & Updates:**

This was an incredible year for Foodshare's Turkey and Thirty Campaign. For the first time post-recession, the regional food bank made goal on the Monday before Thanksgiving. "I hope this is a sign of good things to come," said James Arena-DeRosa, Foodshare President and CEO. "Witnessing this outpouring of support in my first few months here at Foodshare has been humbling. It reaffirms my decision to take on this new role, and I look forward to being a part of such positive change in the Greater Hartford community."



Meeting the need this Thanksgiving was truly a community-driven achievement. Early this morning Pastor Mills, from New Britain's Grace Church, surprised Foodshare with 100 turkeys. Large-scale donations have flocked in from local businesses like Billy Grant Restaurant Group, Macca Plumbing, C&S Wholesale, Wakefern (Shoprite), HomeGoods and Hoffman Auto Group. And Foodshare's Turkey Wars competition engaged community groups across Greater Hartford, including Connecticut Northern Lights Girls Hockey and the West Hartford Hunger Action Team. Then there are all of the generous individuals who donated turkeys anonymously over the past few weeks.

"It all adds up. I cannot say this enough – the numbers are real," Arena-DeRosa said. "Each turkey is donated by a real person, and each turkey is given to someone with a real need." A comprehensive list of donors is now available online at [www.aTurkeyand30.org](http://www.aTurkeyand30.org).

If you have a turkey that you were planning to donate, Foodshare will still be accepting them for last minute requests and the rest of the holiday season. As always, monetary donations are gratefully accepted online at [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org), in person or through the mail. The generous people of Connecticut have already donated \$511,540 this month, but financial donations are crucial to the organization's long-term work to solve hunger.

Keep up with all of Foodshare's latest news and media updates by becoming a follower at [www.twitter.com/Foodshare](http://www.twitter.com/Foodshare).

Recognized as one of the most innovative, progressive and efficient food banks in the country, Foodshare has served Hartford and Tolland counties since 1982. Last year, Foodshare provided enough food for 12 million meals to 300 partner programs including food pantries, community kitchens, and homeless shelters, and through its Mobile Foodshare program. The organization also works on reducing the need, with programs that help people get back on their feet and get the resources they need to buy their own food. Working in partnership with other community leaders such as the United Way, End Hunger Connecticut! and 211 Infoline, Foodshare has the experience and is building the networks necessary to help make this vision a reality.