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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Milford Schools, PTO, and Youth Leadership Program Collect Food Drive to Replenish Shelves of the New Milford Social Services' Food Bank is a Great Success

NEW MILFORD, CT (March 18, 2008) – In response to a shortage of food on the shelves of the local food bank, United Way of Western Connecticut worked with the New Milford Public Schools, the New Milford PTO, and the Youth Leadership Program to help restock the shelves for those in need.

During the two weeks of February 11th through the 25th, an estimated 4,000 pounds of food was collected to benefit those using the services of the New Milford Social Services' Food Bank.

It was a concerted effort, with New Milford High School, John Pettibone School, Sarah Noble Intermediate School, Hill & Plain, Schaghticoke Middle School, and Northville School participating in the drive. Collection boxes were dropped off and picked up at each school by members of the United Way Youth Leadership Program, and the New Milford High School Key Club ran the food drive at the High School. In addition, the New Milford PTO ensured that letters were sent home for all parents to be aware of the drive.

“This was a wonderful community effort at a time of year when food donations are typically at a low point,” said New Milford Social Services Director, Peg Molina. “The drive has helped to boost the Food Pantry’s inventory back up to where it needs to be.”

While that is good news for now, Ms. Molina is quick to point out that the Food Pantry assists an average of 100 households a week; so the collection of food is a sizable ongoing task that depends on community support – and events like food drives – to keep things going.

For further information on the New Milford Food Pantry, contact Peg Molina, Director of Social Services, 860-355-6079.

Stacy Schulman, Manager of Resource Development at United Way of Western Connecticut headed up the Food Drive (860) 354-8800 or ssschulman@uwwesternct.org.

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The United Way of Western Connecticut was formed on July 1 with the merger of United Way of Northern Fairfield County, Housatonic/Shepaug United Way, and United Way of Stamford. It will distribute close \$4 million to benefit human service programs and community initiatives within the three regional areas of Northern Fairfield County, Southern Litchfield County, and Stamford. The towns covered within these regions are Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, Newtown, New Milford, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Stamford, Warren and Washington.

The United Way of Western Connecticut is a leader in mobilizing resources to improve lives and our communities. They bring together community leaders, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and businesses to focus on the most pressing needs in our community and provides the resources – human, technical and financial – to get to the heart of

problems.