

Project Bread Awards nearly \$200,000 to Western Massachusetts Food Programs

The Walk for Hunger supports hunger relief programs throughout the state

(November 12, 2012 – BOSTON) Project Bread, the state's leading antihunger organization, has awarded \$193,575 in grants to emergency food programs throughout Western Massachusetts, through funds raised by the 44th annual Walk for Hunger. The grants will support programs such as food pantries, schools, farms, food banks, food salvage programs, and other community organizations providing hunger relief. Over 43,000 supporters walked to raise money to help the hungry.

In Western Massachusetts, 41 different agencies will benefit from these grants. Emergency food programs are a vital resource for people who struggle with hunger, something an estimated 750,000 people in Massachusetts experience. Last year, Project Bread-funded emergency food programs across the state reported serving 61 million meals to those in need.

"As we begin to think about the holidays," said Ellen Parker, executive director of Project Bread, "it's essential to remember those who are struggling to put food on the table for their families. We owe them as great a measure of relief as possible to get through these difficult times."

Statewide, Project Bread's Walk for Hunger is funding over 430 food programs in 125 communities. Below is a partial list of the 41 grant recipients in the western Massachusetts area. For a complete listing, visit www.projectbread.org/fundedagencies.

- Massachusetts Farm to School Project (Amherst)
- Holyoke Health Center (Holyoke)
- MANNA Soup Kitchen (Northampton)
- Friends of the Homeless Food Services Program (Springfield)
- Hilltown Community Health Centers, Inc (Worthington)

Bill Miller, executive director, at Friends of the Homeless Food Services Program in Springfield, explained how grant money from Project Bread will impact their meal program: "We're absolutely thrilled to get the grant from Project Bread. This year we are seeing the highest numbers ever using our meal services, serving approximately 13,000 meals monthly. The funds from Project Bread enable us to stay open and serve three meals a day, seven days a week."

About Project Bread

As the state's leading antihunger organization, Project Bread is dedicated to alleviating, preventing, and ultimately ending hunger in Massachusetts. Through The Walk for Hunger, the oldest continual pledge walk in the country, and other sources, Project Bread provides millions of dollars each year in privately donated funds to support hunger relief through emergency programs, schools, community health centers, farmers' markets, community suppers, home care organizations, and other programs that protect the individual and strengthen community food security. For more information, visit www.projectbread.org.