



## CONNECTICUT FOOD BANK

**For Immediate Release:** December 12, 2020

### **Environmental Groups Partner with CT Food Bank to Distribute Reusable Bags to New Haven Families in Need**

***Reusable bag giveaway helps all families, regardless of income, to kick the plastic bag habit***

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**New Haven, CT**—Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) partnered with BYOCT (Bring Your Own Connecticut) and the CT Food Bank today for a safe, socially-distant reusable bag giveaway in New Haven. The distribution was held at the Cathedral of Higher Praise on Grand Avenue. The purpose of this program was to distribute new reusable bags to New Haven area families in need, while educating the community on the need to reduce pollution from single-use plastics. Together, these groups distributed 1,350 reusable bags to nine food pantries and one middle school serving New Haven area residents. ***CCE and our organizing partners appreciate local organizations and business sponsors who have contributed reusable bags and funding to support this effort.***

“Our goal is to get reusable bags into the hands of residents who need them the most, while educating the public on the importance of reducing pollution from single-use plastic” *said Louis Rosado Burch, CT Program Director at Citizens Campaign for the Environment.* “Disposable plastic and paper bags are costly and can wreak havoc on our environment. By providing residents with clean reusable bags, we can equip them with the tools they need to make more sustainable shopping choices, regardless of their income level.”

“Waste often flows into under-represented communities,” *said Jeanine Behr-Getz of BYOCT.* “Plastic pollution is an environmental justice issue. BYOCT is proud to support the important services local food banks are providing during these unprecedented times. Be kinder to each other and our planet.”

“These bags will help families avoid bag fees in stores and support cleaner communities,” *said Connecticut Food Bank spokesperson Paul Shipman.*

In 2019, the CT General Assembly passed a budget measure establishing a 10-cent charge/2-year phaseout on plastic checkout bags. This was done to significantly reduce consumers’ use of single-use plastic bags. Plastic bags are easily swept into storm drains where they lead to blockages and contribute to localized flooding. Additionally, plastic bags routinely become clogged in municipal recycling equipment, which can lead to costly delays and exacerbate the skyrocketing cost of municipal recycling. Worst of all, plastic bags leave behind a legacy of plastic pollution that can impact marine ecosystems for generations.

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