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The Essex Foundation Helps Stock Backpack Program Pantry

\$2,000 Grant Awarded to Aid 42 Local Students

Essex, CT – The Essex Foundation ended the year on a high-note of community support with a \$2000 grant awarded to The Backpack Program, a volunteer organization that provides students identified by school social workers at Essex Elementary, John Winthrop and Valley Regional High School with nutritious food on weekends, during school vacations or when other resources are not available. With the number of food-insecure students in the program increasing to 42 this year, maintaining an inventory for the volunteers to pack each week has been a challenge.



The Foundation's grant award will be used to purchase food items such as cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars, milk, juice, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, apples, and soup to stock the Backpack Program pantries that are now located at the schools.

The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. The Foundation relies on donations from individuals, businesses, and other

community groups to fund special needs and community projects that benefit Essex residents.

The Foundation's Matching Gift Challenge for the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall expansion project is also in its final phase, another example of the organization's efforts to support local initiatives. More information can be found online at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing contact@theessexfoundation.org.

Pictured Above, from left to right: The Essex Foundation Treasurer Cheryl Harger presents a \$2000 check to Lynda Porcaro of the Backpack Program to help maintain food pantry inventories at area schools.