

## Griffin Health, TEAM partner to fill Valley nonprofits' pantries

### Volunteers help distribute healthy foods at Seymour event

By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - Providing healthy choices to Valley residents who use food banks to supplement their meals is the focus of an initiative led by Griffin Health and TEAM, Inc.

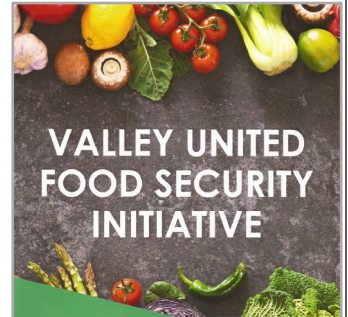
On Monday more than 275 cases of fresh, healthy food were distributed to five organizations that run Valley food banks.



The food was purchased at wholesale and delivered by Cheshire-based Bozzuto's Inc.

Basement Systems partnered with Griffin Health and TEAM by allowing use of a loading dock and warehouse for the event.

Volunteers from Griffin Health, TEAM, Inc., and Better Packages of Ansonia separated items for the pantries.



The Valley Council for Health & Human Services' Food Security Task Force has found Valley food pantries serve almost 2,000 individuals each month. They include 600 children and 300 senior citizens.

**Continued on P. 2**





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### *Continued from P.1*

Food pantries that received fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, chicken, beef, eggs, cheese, milk, tuna, peanut butter, cereals, and more were:

- The Kathleen B. Samela Memorial Food Bank at Christ Episcopal Church in Ansonia;
- The Salvation Army Greater Valley in Ansonia;
- St. Vincent De Paul in Derby;
- ACT Spooner House in Shelton;
- Seymour/Oxford Food Bank.

Major Caroline Ramos of The Salvation Army Greater Valley was pleased with the food the organization received Monday.

"We have seen an increase in new cases since we changed our distribution toward healthy foods," she said. "We have a lot of seniors and parents with children that use our pantry and we know that health problems and food are related."

"With this change we are trying to help improve the nutrition of our clients by making fruits, vegetables, and lean meats more accessible to the families and seniors of the Valley."







It sure didn't feel like Feb. 23 at Osbornedale State Park in Derby. The temperature was in the mid-50s.

*-Photo by Patricia Villers*



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