



NEW COVENANT CENTER
Helping those in need

MEDIA ADVISORY: Wednesday, September 14, 2015

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County: Rowena Daly – RDALY@CCFC-CT.ORG Cell: 646-263-6384

New Covenant Center: Beth Merrill MERRILL.BETHJ@GMAIL.COM Cell: 203-247-9929

Grand Opening of New Covenant Center
Largest Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry in Fairfield County
Center Offers Haircuts & Showers like Pope Francis's Homeless Services at the Vatican

Dedication and Blessing by Bishop Caggiano. Testimonials from volunteers and recipients of services, Stamford's Mayor, Center's Executive Director & Board Chair, Catholic Charities President. The Center opened in 1978 as a store-front soup kitchen. It will now reopen as a state-of-the-art facility to serve thousands of needy and working poor from the Stamford metropolitan area. The New Covenant Center offers:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8,000-square-foot facility• Food Market - open several days per wk• State-of-the-Art Kitchen• Dining room w/ seating for 72• Computer & Job Training Center• Dedicated Case Worker & Medical Rm• Counseling Center• Laundry, Shower, Barber | <p>Center Serves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 250 guests receive breakfast, lunch & dinner daily• Open 365 days a year• 250 families shop monthly in market• 30 children receive snack at partnered women's shelter• 700,000 meals served annually |
|--|---|

WHERE: New Covenant Center – Soup Kitchen and Market - 174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford, CT.

WHEN: Thursday, September 17, 2015 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

WHO: Bishop Frank Caggiano, Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport;

- Al Barber, President of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County;
- Stamford Mayor David Martin;
- John Gutman, New Covenant Center Executive Director;
- Paul Harinstein, New Covenant Center Board Chair;
- Community leaders, volunteers, Center recipients and
- Celebrity Chef demonstrations

BACKGROUND: New Covenant Center is an inter-faith project of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC). CCFC is the largest private social service provider in Fairfield County. Since 1916, CCFC has served all people through programs for the elderly, disabled, working poor and children. Connecticut has one of the biggest disparities between rich and poor. This Center gives people a chance to gain security and move forward. The NCC's capital campaign raised nearly \$1.4 million to create the new facility on Richmond Avenue. An additional \$300,000 is needed to support the new initiatives. Guests can eat at the soup kitchen with no questions asked. To shop (for free) at the pantry, guests must complete an application and provide proof of income and residency. Families visit the food pantry once per month and receive enough food for 10 to 12 days.

###