



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Michael Cerio  
942-6325 x 213

**Representative Tom Winfield Visits St. Philips Food Pantry and  
Community Farm as Agency Continues to Help Increasing Numbers**

*In Light of Difficult Times, Food Bank Member Agencies Continue to Make a Difference for  
Thousands Thanks to Community Support*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – On Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, Rhode Island Representative Thomas Winfield (D, District 53 – Gloucester/Smithfield) visited the St. Philips Food Pantry and Community Farm to tour the agency's new facility and impressive garden. St. Philips is one of nearly 300 certified member agencies of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

With increasing food, fuel and home utility costs devastating the household budgets of families across the state, more and more Rhode Islanders are turning to food pantries for help. Thanks to agencies such as the St. Philips Food Pantry, and their Community Farm, the Food Bank continues to work hard to provide food assistance to those who need it most.

The St. Philips Food Pantry is open each Wednesday, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and primarily serves the community of Smithfield; nearby residents of Johnston, North Providence, Chepachet and North Scituate benefit from the pantry as well. Along with the food pantry, St. Philips operates a Community Farm at the parish, coordinated by volunteers and the students of the St. Philips School, to grow fresh produce for their neighbors in need. During the past twelve months, the St. Philips pantry has helped more than 750 families, comprised of more than 1,700 individuals – an increase of 30% from the previous year.

In addition to the services of the food pantry, St. Philips also offers help with heating, fuel, electricity, rent and medical assistance when able.

“We are fortunate to have such a generous community here in Smithfield,” commented Representative Winfield. “When our folks see a need, they respond and help. The partnership here, and with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, really helps to make a difference in those households where the alternative is missing meals and going hungry.”

Established in 1982, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a private charitable non-profit that relies upon community support in order to offer its services. “The support of the community is critical to our work,” added Andrew Schiff, Executive Director of the Food Bank. “Without the generosity of thousands of Rhode Islanders, we wouldn't be able to provide the assistance that helps so many. Every donation helps.”

Currently, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank is feeding tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders in need each month through a network of 300 certified member agency programs. A USDA statistical study on food insecurity shows that over 17% of Rhode Island's children, 1 out of every 6, are at risk of hunger. Additionally, 11.3% of Rhode Island households, representing 48,000 families, are not able to afford adequate food.

**The Rhode Island Community Food Bank** is a non-profit organization located in Providence, RI. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank's network of over 300 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 8.3 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit [www.rifoodbank.org](http://www.rifoodbank.org)