

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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May 9, 2019

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Access Receives Food Donations from "Fighting the Good Fight on Hunger" through the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic Held in April



Willimantic, CT 2019 – The Connecticut Mission of Mercy (CTMOM) Free Dental Clinic was held for the first time at Windham Middle School last month. Over 700 medical professionals and general volunteers for the clinic not only provided almost 1,000 local residents with exceptional free dental care but also donated non-perishable goods to the *Access* food pantries that serve the residents of Windham and Tolland counties.

Paul Venti, who started a Nonprofit "Fighting the Good Fight on Hunger" in Florida, is also a Veteran and former Connecticut resident who orchestrated the food drive by partnering with CTMOM. "When I see our Veterans suffering from post-traumatic Stress disorder who don't want to ask for

help or seniors making a choice between food or prescriptions it just breaks my heart", says Paul. "I wanted to make a little difference to ease their troubles". Paul travels from Florida to work alongside the dental clinic volunteers, coordinating the food drive. He looks for the local foodbank in the community where the dental clinic is being held. "Working with Paul was a pleasure every step of the way. And his generosity of time and effort is inspirational. We are grateful recipients" is how Kathleen Krider from *Access* summarized Mr. Ventis work. "Fighting the Good Fight on Hunger" has coordinated five other drives in CT; this was their first time in Windham.

#### **About CTMOM**

The Connecticut Mission of Mercy is affectionately referred to as CTMOM. The two day clinic provides free dental care to the underserved and uninsured in Connecticut – those that would otherwise go without dental care. Every year, the Connecticut Mission of Mercy project is held in a different location throughout the state.

#### About Access

The *Access* Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. *Access* provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other

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pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region.

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