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For Immediate Release:

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CHNCT Foundation Awarded Operation Frontline Grant *CHNCT Foundation is first organization in Connecticut selected to implement Groundbreaking, three year nutrition education program*

WALLINGFORD, Conn. – Community Health Network of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) has been awarded a three year, \$100,000 grant to implement Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline® program. The Foundation is the first organization in Connecticut bestowed such duty.

"The CHNCT Foundation has worked diligently over the past several months to bring Operation Frontline to the state of Connecticut," said John V. Federico, M.D., Chairman of the Foundation. "We not only recognize the significance of our being the only organization to introduce this potentially life changing program to the state, but also the impact it can have on many of its neediest residents. I am truly proud of the Foundation's efforts in securing this grant."

Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline® connects families with food by teaching them how to prepare healthy, tasty meals on a limited budget. Professional chefs and nutritionists volunteer their time and expertise to lead hands-on courses that teach adults, teens and kids how to purchase and prepare nutritious foods in healthful, safe and tasty ways. This knowledge can mean the difference between feeding families for just one night, and making sure they have the knowledge, skills and resources to prepare healthy meals for a lifetime.

The Foundation will launch Operation Frontline in Hartford this June. It will move to New Haven in 2011 and Bridgeport in 2012.

"Our goal in bringing Operation Frontline to Connecticut is to assist individuals in providing healthful meals to their families, despite what limited resources they may have," said Terry Dumais, Operation Frontline Coordinator. "There isn't a week that goes by when someone doesn't express their desire to know how they can better feed their families nutritious foods. People are interested in learning about good nutrition, but are confused by all of the advertisements and misinformation regarding the foods we buy. I believe that Operation Frontline will help bridge the gap between confusion and knowledge, while supporting the participating families' efforts in making these choices."



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With six specialized nutrition curricula, Operation Frontline takes a cooking-centered approach to nutrition and household budgeting. Each class includes hands-on meal preparation led by a chef who teaches participants that cooking healthy can be simple, enjoyable, delicious and affordable. The courses cover basic nutrition, food safety and food budgeting so that participants are able to plan and prepare low-cost nutritious meals for themselves and their families. In addition, Operation Frontline's adult and teen participants receive groceries at each class session so they can practice what they learn at home.

Since 1993, Operation Frontline and its hundreds of volunteer instructors have helped more than 60,000 low-income families in communities across the country learn how to eat better for less. Today, 84 percent of Operation Frontline students graduate, taking with them improved nutrition practices, eating habits, and cooking and food budgeting skills.

For more information on the Foundation or Operation Frontline, please visit www.chnctfoundation.org.

Founded in 2003, Community Health Network of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) is a public, charitable organization concerned with the health of Connecticut residents. Its mission is to advance, support and promote programs and activities that fundamentally improve the health status of the people of Connecticut. As such, the goal is to support the activities of community health centers, and other non-profit organizations that promote health care services to uninsured and medically underserved individuals, youth, children and families in Connecticut.

The Foundation is a volunteer-driven organization with an independent and non-funded board of directors who donate their time to the Foundation without compensation. The Foundation has been designated by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 entity, gifts to which are tax-exempt as charitable contributions.

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