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## Connecticut Residents Urged to “Pick Up the Phone!” to Support Largest-Ever Statewide Survey - Leading Foundations, Hospitals Join DataHaven Initiative

*Over 15,000 residents of all towns and cities in Connecticut participate in 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey, with interviews on quality of life, health, and happiness.*

NEW HAVEN, CT, May 1, 2015 - How happy are you? Have you seen a dentist lately? Are local government officials responsive to your needs?

Those are some of the questions being asked by friendly survey-takers helping DataHaven and dozens of leading community and charitable groups complete the largest-ever well-being survey of area residents. A record number of participants will pick up the phone – over 15,000 by the time the 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey is complete.

“Our initial feedback from residents and our previous experience with this survey shows that people like to answer these questions,” says Mark Abraham, Executive Director of DataHaven, which is spearheading the campaign. “They are answering questions about their own happiness and health, their family’s financial security, and how their communities and neighborhoods are faring. These questions show that we care about how they feel.”

DataHaven, the nonprofit group leading the collection and study of neighborhood-level public data on key social and economic indicators, announced the commencement of the program in mid-April. With over 15,000 respondents, it is believed to be the most intensive effort of its kind in the United States.

Seeing the potential impact of its results, dozens of Connecticut’s leading hospitals, government agencies, universities, and charities are backing the 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey with major donations. Supporters joining DataHaven include regional community foundations, United Ways, and health care providers located in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, Waterbury, New Britain, Norwalk, Danbury, Bristol, Derby, New London, and elsewhere. (See full listing below.)

Building on the success of its 2012 survey of Greater New Haven – at the time the most in-depth regional survey ever conducted in the state – DataHaven’s 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey will again implore residents to, “Make a difference: Pick up your cell phone or home phone, help your community learn more about your needs, and tell us what you want to see for greater happiness and well-being in your neighborhood,” says Abraham.

## ABOUT THE 2015 COMMUNITY WELLBEING SURVEY

This nationally recognized program provides neighborhood- and regional-level information not available from any other source on community vitality, health, family economic security, and individual happiness. Other topics such as civic engagement, transportation, housing, and employment – even satisfaction with government and community life – are included.

Residents throughout Connecticut and adjacent sections of New York State will receive phone calls from survey-takers at the Siena College Research Institute – generally appearing as a 518 area code – beginning this week. Calls will continue throughout the spring and summer.

The mission of the initiative is to produce the highest-quality, neighborhood-level information on issues that are most meaningful to local residents, and to foster collaboration between the hundreds of organizations, institutions, businesses, and agencies that are working to build stronger communities.

“With such a detailed snapshot, state and local community leaders will be able to better serve the health and well-being needs of our communities,” says Abraham.

## “UNITED BY DATA”: FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THE 2015 COMMUNITY WELLBEING SURVEY

Unlike most statewide and national surveys, the DataHaven program has brought together grassroots efforts across the state – effectively unifying dozens of existing regional surveys into a single, high-quality program that covers all areas.

DataHaven designed the 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey with the support of nearly 100 government, academic, health-care, and community partners, many of whom are supplying major funding for its expansion. Partners providing significant funding for the program are representative of each region of Connecticut:

- In Fairfield County, \$200,000 has been committed by leading organizations such as **Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Bridgeport Hospital, Stamford Hospital, Greenwich Hospital**, and the **United Way of Coastal Fairfield County**.
- In south-central Connecticut, **The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven** along with **Yale-New Haven Hospital, Workforce Alliance, United Way of Greater New Haven**, and others have joined forces to commit over \$100,000 in funding.
- In Greater Hartford and New Britain, the program has drawn over \$100,000 in support from the **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, Trinity College Office of the President and Center for Urban and Global Studies, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Johnson Memorial Medical Center**, and others.
- Additionally, DataHaven has secured funding to ensure that residents of Connecticut's smaller cities and rural areas are included to the same degree as those living in its major metropolitan areas. Nearly \$200,000 has been committed

from organizations such as the **Connecticut Community Foundation, Valley Community Foundation, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Ledge Light Health District, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority**, and others.

## **PUBLISHING THE RESULTS OF THE 2015 COMMUNITY WELLBEING SURVEY**

Results from the survey will be published in a series of local and statewide reports throughout late 2015 and 2016, helping to shed light on progress made toward various longstanding community priorities, including financial security for families and opportunities for children to succeed.

As an example, results from DataHaven's more localized survey in 2012 were included in the *Community Index*, a nationally recognized, 86-page study that has been used extensively by governments, funders, journalists, teachers, and researchers. The results were also cited in a number of other landmark reports produced by area agencies and community organizations.

"We believe the 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey, the most comprehensive local-level survey of its type in the United States, will be of great value to neighborhoods and organizations striving to make our cities and towns even better places to live and work," says Abraham.

## **SUPPORTERS FROM EVERY CORNER OF CONNECTICUT**

A list of partners for DataHaven's 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey follows. This is a partial list, says Abraham, yet it indicates the extent of participation across Connecticut.

### **Foundations and Philanthropy**

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
Fairfield County's Community Foundation  
Community Foundation of Greater New Britain  
Connecticut Community Foundation  
Valley Community Foundation  
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut  
Main Street Community Foundation  
Westchester Community Foundation  
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy  
United Way of Greater New Haven  
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County  
United Way of Greater Waterbury  
Valley United Way  
United Way of Connecticut  
NewAlliance Foundation  
Carolyn Foundation  
Annie E. Casey Foundation

### **Health Care**

Yale-New Haven Hospital  
Bridgeport Hospital  
St. Vincent's Medical Center  
Greenwich Hospital  
Waterbury Hospital  
Saint Mary's Hospital  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
Johnson Memorial Medical Center  
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital  
Stamford Hospital  
Danbury Hospital  
Norwalk Hospital  
New Milford Hospital  
Western Connecticut Health Network  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Griffin Hospital  
Middlesex Hospital  
Hartford HealthCare  
StayWell Health Center

BHcare  
Hispanic Health Council  
United Community and Family Services  
Fair Haven Community Health Center  
Connecticut Hospital Association

#### **Government / Agency**

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority  
Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging  
Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Children  
Connecticut Civic Health Project  
South Central Regional Council of Governments  
Capitol Region Council of Governments  
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments  
Workforce Alliance  
The WorkPlace  
Shelton Economic Development Corporation  
City of Bridgeport Health Department  
City of New Haven Health Department  
City of Hartford Health and Human Services Department  
Stamford Department of Health and Social Services  
City of Waterbury Health Department  
Ledge Light Health District  
Eastern Highlands Health District  
Northeast District Department of Health  
Naugatuck Valley Health District  
Quinnipiac Valley Health District  
Stratford Health Department  
Fairfield Health Department  
Chesprocott Health District  
Pomperaug Health District  
East Shore Health District  
Westport Weston Health District  
Uncas Health District

Manchester Health Department  
Glastonbury Health Department  
City of Bristol  
City of Derby Bureau of Youth Services  
Town of Seymour

#### **Colleges and Universities**

Office of the President, Trinity College  
Center for Urban and Global Studies, Trinity College  
Community Alliance for Research and Engagement, Yale School of Public Health  
Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University  
Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

#### **Other Initiatives, Businesses, and Organizations**

Bridge to Success Community Partnership  
Greater Waterbury Health Improvement Partnership  
Partnership for a Healthier Greater New Haven  
Community Solutions  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
Connecticut Association for Human Services  
Community Action Agency of Greater New Haven  
Thames Valley Council for Community Action  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
TEAM, Inc.  
Center Stage Theatre  
Down to Earth Consulting Solutions  
Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center  
Valley Regional Adult Education  
Valley Council for Health and Human Services  
New Haven Community Management Teams  
Partnership for Strong Communities  
Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund  
Connecticut Public Health Association

**Plus more public and private partners not listed above.**

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#### **About DataHaven**

DataHaven is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization with a 25-year history of public service to Greater New Haven and Connecticut. DataHaven's mission is to improve quality of life by collecting, sharing, and interpreting public data for effective decision-making. Since 1992, DataHaven has worked with area organizations to develop reports and tools that make information more useful to the community. DataHaven maintains extensive economic, social, and health data, including information collected through its Community Wellbeing Survey. DataHaven is a formal partner of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, a collaborative national effort by the Urban Institute and approximately 40 local partners to further the development and use of neighborhood information systems in local policymaking and community building. For more, visit [www.ctdatahaven.org](http://www.ctdatahaven.org).