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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.