



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH AND URBAN ALLIANCE
AWARDED \$30,000 MULTI-YEAR GRANT
BY FARMINGTON BANK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Funding will support implementing the *More than Food*
Program in Hartford-area food pantries

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. – February 28, 2017 – The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) today announced the institution and Urban Alliance received a \$30,000 grant from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation to support *More than Food*, a framework that helps food pantries with more capacity-building resources in addition to short-term food supplies to help address the root causes of hunger.

More than Food, developed by USJ, Urban Alliance and Foodshare, was initially launched with funding from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation in 2014. This latest grant supports the program over the next two years.

“More than Food focuses on promoting healthy food in pantries and helping people access other resources to find a job. We’re proud to support a partnership that is trying to find a solution to the hunger problem,” said Chris Traczyk, executive director of the Farmington Bank Community Foundation. “It’s a comprehensive, collective-impact project.”

Dr. Katie Martin, assistant professor and director of the Public Health Program at USJ, and her research team developed a nutrition stoplight system called Supporting Wellness at Pantries, or “SWAP”, which helps food pantry clients choose healthier foods. USJ is collaborating with the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity and the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport to pilot the SWAP system in six food pantries in CT, which together serve over 5,000 people on average every month. Under the *More than Food* framework, the grant from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation will help expand this work to offer trainings and implement and evaluate the SWAP system in additional food pantries.

“We are very grateful for the continuing support of the Farmington Bank Community Foundation, as well as the collaborative work of our partner organizations in making More than Food a holistic way to address hunger in our area,” said Martin.

As part of the *More than Food* framework, Urban Alliance has developed various training series and toolkits to equip food pantry staff and volunteers to offer case management services and resource centers that help connect clients to necessary community programs through its *Beyond the Basics* initiative. Also, Urban Alliance is developing a training program to help pantries create a welcoming environment that fosters the dignity and respect of each person served.

A website, www.ittakesmorethanfood.org, has been developed to share information about the *More than Food* framework and provide practical guidance and tools to food pantries to help them offer healthy foods with choice, connect clients to needed services, and create a welcoming culture. The recent grant award will help refine, disseminate, and evaluate materials that will be shared through the website.

Currently there are multiple food pantries in Connecticut, Texas and Rhode Island that are implementing the *More than Food* framework to address the root causes of hunger.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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