

For Immediate Release

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Wireless Zone Announces \$67,000 in Grant Recipients, Holiday Food Drive and More!

Locally owned and family operated Wireless Zone, a Verizon Authorized Retailer, continues to generously give back to their local community this holiday season, donating more than \$67,000 to local charities. The team at Wireless Zone, with stores in Groton, New London, Glastonbury, North Windham, Killingly, Putnam and Westerly, also hosted the 5th Annual Backpack Giveaway in August 2021 and currently, the Holiday Food Drive, making them philanthropically busier than ever in the places they both work, live and play.

Fortunate enough to have survived a global pandemic, both personally and professionally, the company is committed to paying it forward. Wireless Zone is currently collecting non-perishable food items for their Annual Holiday Food Drive, in addition to monetary donations, with 100% of the money collected going to purchasing food for those in need. Furthermore, Wireless Zone has committed to matching the donations collected, making an even larger impact locally.

Over the years, Wireless Zone has donated to the Gemma Moran United Way Food Bank, Interfaith Human Services of Putnam (part of Connecticut Food Bank), and the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, providing food and supplies to countless families in and around these areas.

“Last year, our Food Center distributed the equivalent of 2,047,459 meals and snacks through 76 distribution sites including food pantries, shelters, childcare centers, community meal sites, programs for the elderly, and our Mobile Food Pantry... at no cost to those in need. Each month, 17,444 individuals were served through these sites. That includes 9,104 adults, 5,429 children, and 2,911 seniors,” reports the Gemma Moran United Way Food Bank.

In addition, Wireless Zone also nominated multiple nonprofit organizations in the Eastern Connecticut and Southern Rhode Island communities to receive grants from the Wireless Zone Foundation in 2021. A grand total of \$67,000 will be donated to these neighboring organizations.

The charities receiving grants in Rhode Island include the Frank Olean Center, Jonnycake Center of Westerly, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island and Operation Stand Down Rhode Island.

The charities receiving grants in Connecticut include Camp Horizons, New England Science & Sailing Foundation, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group and Waterford Country School.

Each year, local franchise owners, Scott Gladstone and Neil Ryan elect several charities in their community that display extraordinary dedication to serve their respective organizations and fulfill their unwavering commitment to their mission statement. This year, twenty of these grant requests were honored. “We are thrilled to be fortunate enough to support these organizations who go above and beyond to give back in the same communities that have supported us endlessly,” says Ryan.

The Foundation supports both local and national nonprofit organizations, providing a basic structure for the company’s collaborative giving program and enhancing the ability of the individual store locations to contribute in their local communities. The grant funds will assist awarded organizations with initiatives to both expand upon current programs and implement new ones.

About Wireless Zone

Founded in 1988 as "The Car Phone Store", the Wireless Zone® system has become the nation's largest wireless retail franchisor, was ranked the No. 1 franchise in its category by Entrepreneur magazine and #118 on Entrepreneur's Franchise 500 in 2021. Each of the over 400 stores are independently owned and operated, exclusively offering Verizon Wireless products and services. The Wireless Zone® system has been honored with Verizon's “Best Customer Service” award for five consecutive years and is franchised and operated by Wireless Zone LLC. For more information, visit www.wirelesszone.com.