

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, May 28, 2020

CONTACT:

Office of the Treasurer, ottpress@ct.gov

Wahlburgers, Katie Piepiora, kpiepiora@wahlburgers.com



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

**TREASURER WOODEN BRINGS TOGETHER
WAHLBURGERS, CRESCENT CAPITAL, UNITE HERE, AND
NEW HAVEN RISING, NEW HAVEN MAYOR'S OFFICE, AND
LOCAL 825 NEW HAVEN FIREFIGHTERS TO DELIVER
MEALS TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN NEW HAVEN**

New Haven, CT — Today, on Thursday, May 28, 2020, Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden delivered warm meals to communities with vulnerable populations. He was joined by [Wahlburgers](#), the Boston-area based restaurant company, Crescent Capital, a leading alternative asset management firm headquartered in Los Angeles, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, Unite Here, Local 825 New Haven Firefighters, and New Haven Rising to hand deliver 800 meals. Both Wahlburgers and Crescent Capital were both responsible for donating the meals.

“We’re not completely out of the woods as of yet, and as we continue to get through this public health crisis, it’s important to reach out and support our most vulnerable populations,” said Treasurer Wooden. “Today, I know for certain we will touch the lives of families who are struggling with unemployment, seniors who are on their own, and individuals who are stranded in the middle of food deserts. Every little bit counts towards making a difference, and I’m grateful for partners like Crescent Capital, Wahlburgers, Mayor Elicker, New Haven Rising, Unite here, and Local 825 New Haven Firefighters for making today possible.”

Through Wahlburgers' [#WhateverYouNeed](#) campaign, Wahlburgers and Crescent Capital will donate warm meals, an initiative which debuted recently in Boston, Hartford, and has been rolling out across the country, is now coming to New Haven. Crescent Capital is an investment manager for the Office of the State Treasurer, and works to maximize the state's pension fund returns. Through corporate partnerships and Treasurer's ongoing commitment to promote corporate social responsibility through the work of the Treasury, he successfully brought together these organizations for a day of service to support communities in need.

"Communities have been hard hit by COVID-19, and we're fortunate to be in a position to help serve those in need of support," said Mark Wahlberg. "Our day of service was such a success that we wanted to come back, this time to New Haven, and work together with Crescent Capital, Treasurer Wooden, and other local key organizations, like Unite Here, to make change on the ground by providing warm meals to families. It's what we know how to do best."

Earlier this month, [Wahlburgers](#) and Crescent Capital announced the participation of 17 additional markets throughout the United States and Canada in their [#WhateverYouNeed](#) campaign to feed first responders, hospital workers, and vulnerable populations in the coming weeks. The multi-city initiative builds off of the strong community response to the initial events recently held in Boston, Worcester, and Hartford, where 800 freshly made meals were delivered.

"Crescent is proud to partner again with Wahlburgers, Treasurer Wooden, and Mayor Elicker to serve some of the communities most affected by this pandemic," said Mark Attanasio, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Crescent Capital Group. "We are committed to doing what we can to help keep our communities safe and well, and are grateful to be able to expand this program to provide meals to those deeply impacted by COVID-19."

Targeting police precincts, fire stations, hospitals, nursing homes, testing sites, shelters, UPS branches, and more, Wahlburgers has committed to donating thousands of warm meals to support those battling and greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in these markets as part of their [#WhateverYouNeed](#) program.

"Our city is full of vibrant communities, but with the socioeconomic inequality we've seen for decades, the odds have been stacked against these neighborhoods with the impacts of COVID-19. It is crucial that our City can continue to have collaborations like this to address our residents' needs," said Mayor Elicker "Thank you so much to Treasurer

Wooden, Crescent Capital, Wahlburgers, Unite Here, New Haven Rising, and everyone for being a part of this event today,” he concluded.

The meal locations today included, but were not limited to: Varick Church in Dixwell, where the day of service kicked-off, Roberto Clemente Elementary School in the Hill, and Bregamos Community Theater in Fair Haven.

“We love our community and are glad to be able to provide assistance by delivering meals,” said Local 825 New Haven Firefighters Vice President Patrick Cannon. “As a first responder, you see up close a lot of the challenges that families are facing, and it’s the least we can do to band together as a community to help those who are struggling to make ends meet during these dire times.”

“Our city has faced a crisis of inequality for too long. My neighborhood, Newhallville, is just one of many in our city that suffers unjustly. I’m happy to see Wahlburgers provide a meal for those in need. But—while this may help today, what about tomorrow? We need a new deal for our city, starting with a partnership from all large employers in our town. I, and the 3800 members of my union, are proud to stand with elected leaders like Treasurer Wooden who will keep fighting so no one in New Haven goes to sleep hungry,” said Celesta Kearney, Executive Board member of Local 34 UNITE HERE.

Many of the neighborhoods that were redlined in 1937 are the same neighborhoods that are now experiencing high unemployment and high foreclosure rates following the 2008 financial crisis.; the same neighborhoods that have the highest asthma rates in New Haven and the lowest life expectancy. Now, these same neighborhoods have the highest COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates.

“Our city faces decades of segregated development, locking so many out of opportunity. COVID-19 is just what exposes this ugly truth,” said Rev. Scott Marks, Director of New Haven Rising. “Treasurer Wooden understands this, and we are proud to stand with him today. We are also proud to stand with him as a long-term ally who is committed to working with us in pressing powerful institutions like Yale University and Yale New Haven Hospital to ensure everyone in our city has opportunities, freedom, and dignity.”

To learn more about this partnership and Wahlburgers’ current efforts with the #WhateverYouNeed campaign, please visit <https://wahlburgers.com/whateveryouneed>.

[About the Office of the State Treasurer](#)

Under the leadership of Connecticut's State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, the Office of the Treasurer is dedicated to safeguarding the state's financial resources and taxpayers' dollars, while maximizing returns and minimizing risks and operating at the highest professional and ethical standards. Through investments and disbursements, the office continues to enhance the state's fiscal stability, financial literacy, college savings, and its approach to leveraging business partnerships to combat social issues such as gun violence, climate change, and equal opportunity in economic growth. Learn more about the Office of the Treasurer at portal.ct.gov/ott and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Wahlburgers

Wahlburgers is a casual dining restaurant & bar founded by brothers Mark, Donnie and Chef Paul Wahlberg, which wrapped 10 successful seasons of A&E Network's Emmy-nominated reality show last summer. While its interior decor is filled with photos and memories celebrating the brothers' life journeys from Dorchester neighborhood kids to rising chef and international superstars, Wahlburgers makes food, beverages and its guests the real stars. With menu items like delicious fresh ground beef burgers, bountiful salads, tasty tots and frothy frappes, Chef Paul and team are obsessed with making guests happy and feeling like family. Wahlburgers currently has 32 locations throughout North America and the U.K, and is dedicated to giving back in every community it serves. In 2019, Fast Casual named Wahlburgers in the Top 100 Movers & Shakers and Patrick Renna, President of Wahlburgers, was recognized in its Top 25 Executives list. [Wahlburgers At Home](#), the brands' line of proprietary blended Certified Angus Beef used in the restaurants, is also available in thousands of retail stores throughout the US. Learn more at www.wahlburgers.com and follow along [@Wahlburgers](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Crescent Capital Group

Crescent Capital is a global credit investment manager with approximately \$28 billion of assets under management. For over 25 years, the firm has focused on below investment grade credit through strategies that invest in marketable and privately-originated debt securities including senior bank loans, high yield bonds, as well as private senior, unitranche, and junior debt securities. Crescent Capital is headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in New York, Boston, and London and more than 175 employees globally. For more information about Crescent Capital, visit www.crescentcap.com and follow along on Twitter [@CrescentCap](#).

###