



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE RIVER FUND NEW YORK FOOD PANTRY IS THE RECIPIENT OF
VALLO TRANSPORTATION'S INAUGURAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
WHICH DIRECTLY BENEFITS FAMILIES IN NEED AND THOSE IMPACTED BY
SUPERSTORM SANDY IN "ZONE A" FLOOD CRISIS AREAS IN QUEENS AND BROOKLYN**

Queens, NY—November 20, 2012—Today Vallo Transportation, an independent school bus company located in Whitestone, donated over 25 boxes of Thanksgiving-themed food items and household supplies plus an additional \$500 cash grant to The River Fund New York, a federally recognized public charity located in Queens that provides emergency hunger relief and benefits access to families with children and seniors in need. Serving some 13,000 beneficiaries each month, their mission is 'to feed and empower those they serve to move beyond the lines of poverty.'

After the arrival of Superstorm Sandy, The River Fund was immediately active – not missing a single day of operations. Being the only Mobile Food Pantry in New York City, they were the very first food program to arrive in many of the hardest hit areas, distributing a one-week supply of ready-to-eat foods to over 10,000 families in a matter of days. For Thanksgiving, they were responsible for the distribution of 8,000 turkeys to needy New York families with the help of 17 smaller partner organizations. They also managed the distribution of 1,000 hot Thanksgiving Dinners to hard-hit residents of The Rockaways, and another 500 in the most desperate areas of Jamaica, Queens. Commenting on The River Fund New York, NYC Councilmember Ruben Wills stated: "You look at what they do, and it's amazing. They're more than just a nonprofit, they are an institution for the local community." Additionally, a growing number of needy families from all five boroughs and Nassau County visit The River Fund New York on a regular basis. "With reported average monthly people-served numbers skyrocketing from 7,000 in 2010 to over 13,000 in 2012, The River Fund's reach in the community is staggering," said Dominique Jones, Chief Programs Officer at The Food Bank for New York City.

"The River Fund New York is only able to achieve our high level of impact in the community because of the support we receive from friends like Vallo Transportation. It is partnerships of this nature that enable us to continue bringing hope to New York's hungry," said Swami Durga Das, Executive Director of The River Fund New York.

"Vallo Transportation prides itself in being an active and dedicated partner in the community. Once we learned that The River Fund was in need of additional support, we orchestrated our first employee Thanksgiving Food Drive to donate food and other necessities to this vital Queens charity. The generosity of our employees was overwhelming, and in recognition of their support, we provided a cash grant to The River Fund as well," said Linda DeSabato, President, Vallo Transportation. "Everyone at Vallo Transportation is proud to support The River Fund and directly assist families in need this Thanksgiving. We offer our sincerest prayers to those in our community who are struggling during the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy," added Ms. DeSabato.

To learn more about The River Fund New York or to make a donation, visit www.riverfund-ny.org

Vallo Transportation specializes in private school bus service from Queens and Manhattan to Bronx High School of Science and High School of American Studies at Lehman College. The company also provides school bus charter service for high school sports, field trips and special events. To learn more, visit www.ValloTransportation.com or call (800) VALLO-99.

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