



*For Immediate Release*

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**BRIDGEPORT YMCA & AQUARION ANNOUNCE MORE THAN \$25,000  
RAISED FOR 'NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE' PROGRAM  
*Water Company and YMCA Sponsor Outings for Children***

Bridgeport, CT: August 13, 2007 – Aquarion Water Company today announced that it has raised more than \$25,000 towards the statewide initiative, *No Child Left Inside*.

The formal tally will be noted 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15, during a fishing outing on Saugatuck Reservoir to be attended by children from the Bridgeport YMCA. The location is the Handicap Access Fishing Dock on Valley Forge Road at Davis Hill Road, Weston.

Begun in the spring, as a business community campaign by Aquarion Water Company President and CEO, Charles V. Firlotte, to reconnect families with the great outdoors, build the next generation of environmental stewards, and showcase Connecticut's state parks and forests, the fundraising focused on providing bus transportation to get children to the parks and outdoors.

The Bridgeport YMCA, one of eleven branches of the Central Coast Connecticut YMCA, is one of the recipient's of the money raised through the DEP program, applying it to the transportation costs of getting children and families throughout the summer to events that support the *No Child Left Inside* program.

"The leadership of the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the generosity of Aquarion has been nothing short of phenomenal. There are families not only in Fairfield County but New Haven and Hartford as well that have directly benefited from these programs," stated Timothy Bartlett, Executive Director of the Bridgeport YMCA.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy said, "Thanks to the generous monetary donations from the local business community, an effort spearheaded by Aquarion, there is now funding available to DEP's 'No Child Left Inside' initiative to provide transportation for area youngsters to have the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities. We are pleased that the Bridgeport YMCA has been able to make use of these

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funds for an outstanding fishing program and that C.A.R.E. volunteers are working with the youngsters to give them a quality fishing experience.”

“I want to thank all of the individuals and companies who have contributed to this great cause,” said Firlotte. He added, “These outings have brought many a smile to a child’s face and the impact that these experiences have had on them and their families is priceless.”

Such programming has included fishing outings and educational lectures on Aquarion’s reservoirs and lands in partnership with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program. To date, the YMCA and Aquarion together have run four fishing outings for Bridgeport area youth. The local Central Coast Connecticut YMCA attracts youngsters from both Fairfield & New Haven Counties.

*No Child Left Inside* was introduced in 2006 by Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell, and coordinated by the DEP. Governor Rell said *No Child Left Inside* will encourage young people to enjoy the outdoors, our forests, parks, beaches, and wildlife.

*No Child Left Inside* is comprised of many programs including the key element, *The Great Park Pursuit*, *The Connecticut State Parks Family Adventure*, that allowed families to experience different parks and forests and participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities over a seven-week period this past spring. In addition to funding the fishing trips, Aquarion’s support provided transportation to state parks throughout Connecticut for participants in *The Great Park Pursuit*. Visit [www.nochildleftinside.org](http://www.nochildleftinside.org) for more information.

The CARE program is comprised of free classes and outdoor workshops which help foster resource stewardship, promote an understanding of aquatic systems and fishery management decisions and encourage both an understanding and utilization of aquatic resources. CARE provides rods for the children to use and its certified instructors teach youngsters the important benefits of fishing and its impact on the water environment.

The Bridgeport YMCA is the leading provider of childcare services in the city serving almost 1,100 kids each day. The YMCA is proud to serve over 4,200 individuals uniting men, women and children of all ages, faiths, backgrounds, abilities and income levels. The Bridgeport YMCA is a place for people to belong, serving Bridgeport’s children, families and communities for over 117 years by building “Strong Kids, Strong Families and Strong Communities.” Please visit [www.cccymca.org](http://www.cccymca.org) for more information.

Aquarion Company's principal business is public water supply. Through its Aquarion Water Company subsidiaries, it is one of the 10 largest investor-owned water utilities in the U.S., serving some 207,000 homes and businesses, or approximately 700,000 people, in 44 Connecticut,

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Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities. Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut provides high-quality water to 179,000 customers, or some 600,000 people, in 36 cities and towns. Please visit [www.aquarionwater.com](http://www.aquarionwater.com) for more information.

**Directions to Handicap Access Fishing Dock, Weston:** Merritt Parkway to Exit 44. At light, turn left onto Congress Street. At light turn right onto Black Rock Turnpike, Rte 58. At next light, turn left onto Westport Road. Turn right onto Old Redding Road. Pass Aspetuck Valley Country Club. Go straight at stop sign at Kellogg Hill Rd. Turn right at stop sign onto Valley Forge Rd. Continue up Valley Forge Road. Pass Saugatuck Reservoir Dam. Pull into parking area on the right several hundred feet past the dam, near intersection with Davis Hill Road. Park, and proceed down boat ramp on foot. Turn right onto path down to the fishing dock.

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