

## Congratulating a Bergen County Hero in the Fight Against Hunger

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### Rothman Meets with Local 'Hero' in Fight Against Hunger

(Washington, DC)—On Tuesday, June 12th, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) congratulated Wyckoff resident Paul Laauwe, Jr. for his volunteer efforts to fight hunger in New Jersey and America. Paul and his wife, Laurie, were in Washington, DC, for the "Heroes of Everyday Life" award ceremony during which Paul was one of eight Sodexo employees to receive the company's hero award. Sodexo, Inc. provides food and facilities management services in North America.

Paul, a Chief Manager of Sodexo's Corporate Services division in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, was honored for over a decade of community service. Since 1995, Paul has spent every other Friday night from November through April preparing and serving meals to 20 homeless men at a local shelter. To sustain this vital program, Paul also raised \$15,000. Additionally, for the last 15 years, Paul has donated his time to collecting and delivering household items, clothing, and non-perishable food to those living in poverty in the Mississippi Delta.

As if that weren't enough, every year since 2000, Paul has educated juniors and seniors in high school about the problem of chronic hunger through his participation in World Vision's 30-hour famine. Through this event, Paul has mobilized students to raise more than \$60,000. He also coordinates fundraisers year-round to help many of the anti-hunger and poverty programs for which he volunteers.

In addition to honoring extraordinary individuals, Sodexo's annual hero awards help raise awareness about hunger. 35 million Americans — almost 13 million of them children — live in homes that struggle to put food on the table, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In New Jersey, over 8% of households are "food insecure," which means that all household members did not have access to enough food for an active, healthy life at least some time during the year.

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