

LUNCH Receives Award from World Hunger Year; Presents Check to WHY at Chapin Concert - Hard Rock Café in New York City



Darryl "D.M.C." McDaniels performs with the Chapin Family

December 14, 2005 - MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT Local United Network to Combat Hunger (LUNCH) received an award for innovative grassroots solutions to fighting hunger from World Hunger Year (WHY), an international hunger-fighting organization co-founded by Harry Chapin in 1975. The award was presented at a concert featuring members of Harry Chapin's family at the Hard Rock Café in New York City on Sunday, December 11, 2005.

At the concert, celebrating WHY's 30th anniversary, LUNCH founder and executive director Bill Pere presented WHY with a check for \$1,000 for

the 16th consecutive year. The money was raised through concerts put on throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island by the LUNCH Ensemble.

WHY invited the LUNCH Ensemble to attend the concert, and nine Ensemble members joined Bill Pere and Kay Pere for a day in New York City, highlighted by the concert, which featured members of Harry Chapin's family including his daughter Jen, his brothers Tom and Steve, and Tom's daughters Abigail, Lily, and Jessica (known as "The Chapin Sisters"). Also performing were original Harry Chapin band members Howard Fields and "Big" John Wallace, and special guest

L.U.N.C.H presents a check to WHY's Bill Ayres.



Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, of the legendary hip-hop group "Run-DMC." With Sarah McLachlan, McDaniels recently recorded "Just Like Me," which tells his own personal story of adoption and features the chorus from Chapin's "Cat's in the Cradle."

"I saw this as a very rare opportunity for the LUNCH participants to actually get to see the original creators of the songs they have been singing all these years, and thus gain a new perspective on the music we do," said Bill Pere. "We have so many kids and parents who have given so much that it was an exceptional opportunity to show them that their contributions of time and talent really are appreciated not only in Connecticut, but beyond our borders, and by the Chapin family."

Representing LUNCH were Bill and Kay Pere,

Chelsea Bateman, Anna Buehler, Katie Castagno, Stephanie Leach, Rosemary Ostfeld, Samantha Schaufier, Stefanie Schaufier, Rachelle Seney, and Kat Wyand. All agreed the show was "awesome" with three generations of Chapins participating. "This is the kind of event Harry would have loved," said Grammy-award winner Tom Chapin. "With music and stories shared and sung by close friends and family, with the proceeds going to help those in need."

WHY (World Hunger Year - worldhungeryear.org) is a nonprofit organization co-founded in 1975 by the late singer-songwriter Harry Chapin and radio talk show host and present Executive Director Bill Ayres. WHY attacks the root causes of hunger and poverty by promoting effective and innovative community-based solutions that create self-reliance, economic justice and food security. Harry Chapin donated half his concert proceeds toward various causes before his untimely death in a car accident on the Long Island Expressway in 1981 at the age of 38. The Hard Rock Café event was part of WHY's Hungerthon concert series, and all of the performers are members of its Artists Against Hunger and Poverty Program. Through AAHP, WHY and dedicated artist-citizens have raised awareness and more than \$7 million for more than 500 anti-poverty organizations in the US. Each artist has given considerably to community-based organizations in WHY's *Reinvesting in America* network. These organizations address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty by providing education, life skills, job training, community economic development, health care, child care, housing and transportation, among other services, to their clients and communities in need. They are feeding America's hungry and moving people out of poverty. For additional information on WHY's Artists Against Hunger and Poverty program, please call Jennie Walker at 212-629-3119.

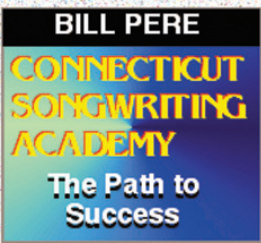
The Local United Network to Combat Hunger (LUNCH) was founded in 1989 by Bill Pere and has raised more than \$500,000 to support community outreach agencies and programs. The LUNCH Ensemble (lunchensemble.com) includes more than 40 young people from throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island. Some 2,000 youths have participated over the years and they see first hand that they can make a difference in other people's lives. For more information on LUNCH, please call Bill Pere at 860-572-9285.



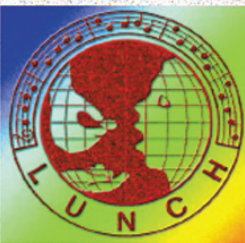
L.U.N.C.H arrives in NYC at the Hard Rock

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Above Left: Big John Wallace, bassist in the original Harry Chapin Band. **Above:** Bill Pere talks about LUNCH at the Hard Rock Cafe in NYC. **Left:** Bill and Kay Pere. **Lower Left:** The Chapin Sisters perform. **Bottom Left:** Tom and Steve Chapin perform. **Below:** Jen Chapin performs. **Bottom Right:** Jonathan Chapin performs.



Mike Grayeb, Board Member of WHY and the producer of the Hard Rock concert, recognized a few individuals and groups that are "doing extraordinary things to make a difference in the local and worldwide fight to end hunger."

Bill Pere and his LUNCH team has done such a tremendous job over so many years in keeping Harry's legacy alive by bringing the messages of hope and commitment to the cause through song that we felt it was appropriate to recognize their efforts at this celebration of Harry's life.

LUNCH continues to help thousands of people each year, by raising much needed funds and by inspiring others to get involved and make a difference, which is what Harry Chapin was all about. WHY really appreciates Bill Pere's continued efforts to bring together communities of people toward this vital common cause."

