



NEWS RELEASE

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ARAMARK and Kids First Demonstrate Commitment to Sustainable Agriculture in Rhode Island with Annual Harvest Fest

On September 17, school districts in Rhode Island will host events and activities that celebrate and support Rhode Island farms

To raise awareness and demonstrate its commitment to sustainable agriculture and local sourcing, ARAMARK, a food service and nutrition provider to many Rhode Island schools, and Kids First of Rhode Island will hold the first of three Rhode Island Fresh Harvest Fests this fall on September 17, 2008. This celebration encourages nutritious food choices among children, while promoting and supporting Rhode Island farmers.

The Rhode Island Farm to School Project is a statewide collaboration designed to bring Rhode Island farm products, such as fresh fruits, vegetables and fresh milk into all Rhode Island school districts. As coordinator of the Farm to School Project, Kids First aims to increase the amount of farm products that are offered to children in schools by developing purchasing relationships between school food service providers and Rhode Island producers/farmers and by delivering companion educational programs for staff and students.

ARAMARK's Farm to School program is designed to promote fresh and nutritious locally-grown produce. Through a series of events, activities and menu specials, the Farm to School Program celebrates local and regional farmers and the surrounding communities where ARAMARK operates.

“ARAMARK is proud to be working with Kids First and our school district partners to incorporate healthy, locally grown agriculture into the lunch menus for the students of Rhode Island,” said Dennis Gomez, District Manager, Northeast, ARAMARK Education.

“We are so grateful for our local Rhode Island farmers. Food grown right here tastes better and our students know it,” said Annie Stoehr, Food Service Director, ARAMARK Education, Rhode Island. “The Farm to School Project is helping us expand the variety of local farm produce provided to our students regularly.”

“Kids First is proud to celebrate ARAMARK's Farm to School efforts during Harvest Fest 2008. Supporting local agriculture sustains farmland and protects open space,” said Kimberly Sporkman, Farm-To-School Specialist, Kids First. “The interaction between schools and farms fosters a strong sense of community, buying local helps build our local economy and best of all, the kids get the freshest, most nutritious and delicious Rhode Island grown foods.”

Students in **Central Falls, Chariho, East Greenwich, Lincoln, North Providence, Smithfield, and Scituate School Districts** will enjoy side dishes of fruits and vegetables from local farms including zucchini and summer squash veggie sticks, cucumber coins, cherry and grape tomatoes and corn on the cob from Confreida Farms and fresh peaches from Pippin Orchards.

About Kids First

Kids First is a Rhode Island non-profit that works closely with schools and childcare centers in every RI community to improve the nutritional and physical wellbeing of children. Visit www.kidsfirstri.org to learn more.

About ARAMARK Education

ARAMARK Education provides a complete range of food, facility, uniform and other support services to more than 500 K-12 school districts in the U.S. It offers public and private education institutions a family of dining and facility services including: on-site and off-site breakfast and lunch meal programs, after-school snacks, catering, nutrition education, retail design and operations, maintenance, custodial, grounds, energy management, construction management, and building commissioning. For more information on ARAMARK's K-12 food service programs, please visit www.aramarkschools.com.

About ARAMARK

ARAMARK is a leader in professional services, providing award-winning food services, facilities management, and uniform and career apparel to health care institutions, universities and school districts, stadiums and arenas, and businesses around the world. In FORTUNE magazine's 2008 list of "America's Most Admired Companies," ARAMARK was ranked number one in its industry, consistently ranking since 1998 as one of the top three most admired companies in its industry as evaluated by peers and analysts. ARAMARK also ranked first in its industry in the 2007 FORTUNE 500 survey. ARAMARK seeks to responsibly address issues that matter to its clients, customers, employees and communities by focusing on employee advocacy, environmental stewardship, health and wellness, and community involvement. Headquartered in Philadelphia, ARAMARK has approximately 250,000 employees serving clients in 19 countries. Learn more at the company's Web site, www.aramark.com.

Media Coverage is invited. Please contact Dave Gargione, ARAMARK, 215-238-3559, Jennifer Quigley-Harris, Kids First Communications, 401-935-9072, jqh@cox.net or the school district.