

as seen in the **CONNECTICUT POST**

For Immediate Release

DUCHESS RAISES MORE THAN \$10,000 FOR SWIM ACROSS THE SOUND

Thousands of Fast Food Customers Donate to Breast Cancer Awareness Month Fundraiser



The photo is of (right) Diane Lavin, marketing director for Duchess, promoting St. Vincent Hospital's Swim Across The Sound Breast Cancer Awareness Month Fundraiser on the Jim Buchanan Show in the WICC Studio, along with (left) Ann McManus, General Manager for WICC/WEBE.

Milford, Conn. (Dec. 26, 2005) – This November, Duchess, the Connecticut restaurant chain that serves fresh, cooked to order fast food, presented a check for \$10,335 to The St. Vincent Hospital Medical Foundation to benefit Swim Across The Sound Breast Cancer Awareness programs.

Residents in and around the towns of Ansonia, Bridgeport, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield, Hamden, Milford, Monroe, Naugatuck, Norwalk, Orange, Shelton, Stratford and Wallingford, where Duchess' 16 restaurants are located, were invited to stop in or

drive-thru to donate \$1 dollar to the cause during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The restaurant chain that was founded nearly 50 years ago in Bridgeport, Conn., recognizes St. Vincent's Swim Across The Sound as one of the area's most important cancer charities. "We are so happy to be a part of a cause that benefits so many people locally," said Diane Lavin, marketing director, Duchess Worldwide Inc., "and truly appreciate the generosity of each and every Duchess customer."

Proceeds, benefiting the St. Vincent Hospital Medical Foundation, will help fund the Swim's 34 cancer awareness, support, prevention and education programs. The Swim supports no research, but rather helps qualified cancer patients cover unmet needs typically not covered by health insurance, such as paying mortgages, and utility bills, providing transportation for treatment, daycare services and a wide variety of other services.

"We are very grateful to Duchess for sponsoring this important Swim fundraiser," said Frank Szivos, director of media relations for Swim Across The Sound. "Thanks to the contributions of so many Duchess customers, we can bring support to many breast cancer patients during the holiday season and hope for the New Year."

For more information about Swim Across the Sound, please visit the Swim Web site at www.swimacrossthesound.org or call 203-576-5451.

About Duchess Worldwide, Inc.

A decade after pioneering Connecticut's diner industry in the late 1940's, brothers Harold and Jack Berkowitz founded Duchess, Connecticut's original fast food restaurant chain. Today, nearly 50 years later, the Bridgeport, Conn. "stand" known for serving fresh food *fast*, has expanded to 16 restaurant locations, complete with eat-in dining rooms, take-out service and drive thrus. Locations throughout Fairfield and New Haven Counties, include Ansonia, Bridgeport, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield, Hamden, Milford, Monroe, Naugatuck, Norwalk, Orange, Shelton, Stratford and Wallingford. The original 1956 menu of burgers, hotdogs, French fries and milk shakes has grown dramatically to include an unmatched variety of more than 100 fresh, cooked-to-order menu items for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Duchess has perfected a totally unique approach to fast food, transforming dashboard dining into nothing less than a short-order cooking art form. Privately owned and operated, Duchess Worldwide, Inc., is based in Milford, Conn. For more information, visit www.duchessrestaurants.com.

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