

# ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Essex Steam Train & Riverboat  
Donates North Pole Express Dress Rehearsal  
to  
“No Child Left Inside” & “Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center”*

**November 10, 2010, Essex, CT** - - Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is delighted to donate this Saturday's November 13<sup>st</sup>, **North Pole Express** Dress Rehearsal to Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's *No Child Left Inside* program and the *Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center (HANOC)*.

This will be the fourth year that Essex Steam Train & Riverboat has donated the popular North Pole Express to *No Child Left Inside*. Bob Bell, President of The Valley Railroad Company says, "Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is once again delighted to share the North Pole Express with the DEP's *No Child Left Inside* program. We're always happy to support the mission of *No Child Left Inside*, as it aligns perfectly with that of Essex Steam Train & Riverboat - - to encourage families to re-connect with the great outdoors and spend precious time recreating together."

For the second year, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is happy to extend this charitable offering to the *Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center (HANOC)*, a collaborative effort among the town of West Hartford, West Hartford Public Schools and other community organizations. HANOC's mission is to improve the quality of life for residents of all ages in the culturally diverse section of southeast, West Hartford, through education, social services, health and wellness programs in a safe and supportive environment. Suzanne Oslander, Community Partnerships Manager for West Hartford's Department of Human and Leisure Services says, "We're delighted to have the opportunity to share the North Pole Express with children in HANOC's homework program and their parents. The homework program includes children in grades K-8, some of whom have just moved to the United States from other countries, such as Nepal, Kenya, Pakistan, and the Dominican Republic. Many thanks to the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat for donating this Dress Rehearsal so that all these families have the opportunity to experience the magic of the North Pole Express."

### ***The Valley Railroad Company***

Incorporated in 1969, The Valley Railroad Company opened the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat to the public in 1971. Today, the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat attracts 150,000 visitors a year and is one of Connecticut's most vibrant tourist attractions. Tour goers enjoy a 2½ hour narrated steam train and riverboat journey through the scenic Connecticut River Valley. Special events include *Day Out With Thomas*, *Fright Train Santa Special* and *North Pole Express*. For more information, please visit

[www.essexsteamtrain.com](http://www.essexsteamtrain.com).

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