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The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation Awards Grant to Connecticut Audubon Society

New Trailblazers program brings Bridgeport public schools to the CAS Center at Fairfield

March 08, 2010 – Fairfield, CT – The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation, a charitable foundation established to help vulnerable children and families of Connecticut, today announced a contribution to the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS), which will allow for the development of *The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation Trailblazers* program. The program will begin this spring and will allow more than 500 Bridgeport public school students to participate in a two-hour guided tour and enhanced interactive learning experience with transportation to and from the Connecticut Audubon Society's Center at Fairfield.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Connecticut Audubon Society and its Center at Fairfield to create this meaningful program that will give children an opportunity to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it through real life interaction with nature," said Amanda Flanagan, chairperson of The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. "The CAS Center at Fairfield is very near to our hearts. John loved to explore and spend time here and would be very pleased to know that his Foundation is giving children the opportunity to share in that experience."

The \$6,470 grant will cover transportation costs for students to and from the CAS Center at Fairfield. The program will include a guided tour of the grounds with activities that educate the students about what they are seeing on the trails of the Society's 155-acre Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary, and a tour of the Center at Fairfield's Birds of Prey Compound, where students will meet the Society's live but non-releasable birds. The tour will conclude with a lesson on the birds' habitats and their survival skills as well as how human actions impact them and how they live.

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation for their generous donation," commented Ann O'Leary, Connecticut Audubon Society director of development. "We believe that firsthand experience is essential for students to truly understand and appreciate the lessons they are learning in the classroom, and we are thrilled to be able to bring so many additional students to our Center at Fairfield to explore and enjoy the outdoors."

For more information, please call 203.259.6305 ext. 102 or visit <http://www.ctaudubon.org> or <http://www.jpff.org>.

About The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation

The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation was established in loving memory of John Patrick Flanagan who passed away from a rare and aggressive form of cancer on December 24, 2008 at the all-too-young age of 44. John's family, friends and colleagues have established the Foundation to serve as a charitable legacy to support what he cherished above all else: children and family. The Mission of The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation is to help vulnerable children and families by supporting charities that provide the direction, education and healthy environment that vulnerable children and families need to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

About the Connecticut Audubon Society

Founded in 1898, Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) conserves Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and habitats. CAS operates nature facilities in Fairfield, Milford, Glastonbury and Pomfret as well as an EcoTravel office in Essex and an Environmental Advocacy office in Hartford. CAS manages 19 wildlife sanctuaries around the state, preserves over 2,600 acres of open space in Connecticut and educates over 200,000 children and adults annually. Working exclusively in the state of Connecticut for over 100 years, Connecticut Audubon Society is an independent organization, not affiliated with any national or governmental group. Website: www.ctaudubon.org

