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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Distributes 25 Recycled Content Benches donated from GIANT Food Stores and MARTIN'S Food Markets Bags to Benches Program**

**(May 22, 2017)** – In recognition of Earth Day, GIANT Food Stores donated 25 benches made from recycled plastic bags to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Litter Free School Zone Program as part of GIANT'S ongoing Bags to Benches initiative. Participating schools within the GIANT Food Stores and MARTIN'S Food Markets region were eligible to receive a bench. The 25 benches were placed on school grounds across the state as part of campus restorations and playground enhancements. The following Litter Free School Zone schools received a recycled content bench.

Muhlenberg Elementary Center, Laureldale, Berks County  
Blacklick Valley Jr/Sr High School, Nanty Glo, Cambria County  
Young Scholars of Central PA, State College, Centre County  
Avon Grove Charter School, Avon Grove, Chester County  
Lancaster Mennonite School - Hershey Campus, Hummelstown, Dauphin County  
Stone Valley Charter School, Huntingdon, Huntingdon County  
Valley View High School, Archbald, Lackawanna County  
Fritz Elementary School, Lancaster, Lancaster County  
Heights-Murray Elementary School, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County  
Hughesville High School, Hughesville, Lycoming County  
Tobyhanna Elementary School, Pocono Pines, Monroe County  
Lindley Academy Charter School, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County  
New Foundations Charter School, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County  
EverGreen Elementary School, Lake Ariel, Wayne County  
Rostraver Elementary School, Belle Vernon, Westmoreland County  
Dillsburg Elementary School, Dillsburg, York County  
Wellsville Elementary School, Wellsville, York County

"As part of being a responsible retailer, GIANT had set a goal of diverting 90% of waste going into landfills through the expansion of recycling and food waste reduction programs," said Tom Lenkevich, GIANT president. "We ask our customers to bring their plastic bags to any store and place in the recycling bins found near the front entrances to we can recycle even more grocery bags into benches."

Customers can recycle plastic bags at any GIANT Food Stores or MARTIN'S Food Markets. It takes about 10,000 plastic bags to make one park bench. Since 1997, more than 1,500 benches have been donated to local fire departments, churches, schools, townships, parks and playgrounds. For more information on GIANT'S responsible retailing efforts and commitment to the environment, visit [www.giantfoodstores.com/environment](http://www.giantfoodstores.com/environment).

"The Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Litter Free School Zone program encourages community leadership, responsibility and a respect for the environment and the world around them. The recycled content benches from GIANT Food Stores and MARTIN'S Food Markets is an appropriate way to bring Litter Free School Zone cleanups, recycling and educational activities full circle," stated Shannon Reiter, president of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "We are very grateful for the continuing support and generosity of GIANT and MARTIN'S."

To participate in the Litter Free School Zone, click [here](#) or contact Stephanie Larson at [slarson@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:slarson@keeppabeautiful.org) or 724-836-4121 x104.

**About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org).

**About GIANT/MARTIN'S**

GIANT/MARTIN'S is committed to helping its customers save money, save time and eat well. Founded in 1923 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, GIANT/MARTIN'S operates nearly 200 grocery stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, under the names of GIANT Food Stores and MARTIN'S Food Markets. GIANT/MARTIN'S employs more than 33,000 associates and is a division of Ahold USA. In addition to working with hundreds of local and regional organizations annually, GIANT/MARTIN'S has a long-standing focus on efforts to eradicate hunger and improve the quality of life for children. GIANT/MARTIN'S is one of the top ten fund-raisers in the country for local Children's Miracle Network hospitals. For more information visit the [GIANT](#) or [MARTIN'S](#) websites. Find [GIANT](#) and [MARTIN'S](#) on Facebook and on Twitter [@GiantFoodStores](#) or [@MartinsFoodMkts](#).

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