



**Maura O'Malley**

*Director, Thomas E. Carroll Food & Nutrition Center for the City of Bridgeport, CT*

The Thomas E. Carroll Food & Nutrition Center prepares and manages healthful meals to over 22,000 public school students in 30 schools serving grades K-8 schools and three high schools across the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Over ninety percent of these elementary and middle school students receive a free breakfast that is served in the classroom each school day.

Maura has been a leader in child nutrition in Bridgeport, CT for over twenty years. Her pioneering, behind-the-scenes efforts to pilot and expand a universal free, after-the-bell, breakfast in the classroom (BIC) program make the city a national model in providing free, healthful breakfast meals to students in grades K-8. In addition to providing students key nutrients at the start of their school day, Bridgeport's has seen an increase of \$2.9 million dollars in federal breakfast reimbursements since implementing the program – money that has been reinvested in food quality and related operational costs.

Outside of her responsibilities at the Thomas Carroll Food & Nutrition Center, Maura is involved with the Green Village Initiative, an outside nonprofit group that works to build and maintain edible gardens in Bridgeport schools.