

MEDIA ADVISORY

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WHAT: Mega Fresh Mobile Pantry Food Distribution

WHERE: Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Media may enter and park via Gate 3 located at the intersection of East 38th St and Woodland Avenue
Clients will be entering via Gate 6 off of Fall Creek Parkway **so please avoid entering at this Gate**

WHEN: Saturday, May 16

Media Availability: 9-9:45 am by the Indiana Farmers Coliseum

Drive Through Distribution: 10 am to 3 pm (while supplies last)

NOTE: Media are welcome throughout the event

WHO: John Elliott, President/CEO of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana

Other guests TBD

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana has seen a drastic increase in the number of food insecure Hoosiers seeking assistance. In March and April 2020, 13.8 million pounds of food was distributed, up from 6.7 million pounds over the same time period in 2019.

As many as 30,000 emergency food boxes are being distributed weekly throughout our 21-county service area.

FROM JOHN ELLIOTT, GLEANERS FOOD BANK OF INDIANA PRESIDENT/CEO:

“Among the many challenges of responding to a pandemic, the ability to distribute fresh, perishable food has been among the most difficult. With many of our traditional partners either closed or reducing distributions, we have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meats to share. As part of our strategic plan, we made a commitment to focus not just on the amount of food distributed but on the nutritional value of that food. That commitment is even more critical during a health crisis, because we know that food insecurity directly impacts the 10 most prevalent chronic health diseases and conditions – many of which put hungry Hoosiers at higher risk for contracting COVID-19.”

FROM CINDY HOYE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIANA STATE FAIR COMMISSION:

“We’re proud to serve as a community partner to Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. Like all of our partnerships, we are guided by our core values and promise to provide a sense of caring for our community. This food distribution event will allow us to help Gleaners serve hungry Hoosiers during this unprecedented time of need.”

About Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.

Gleaners was founded in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America the nation’s food bank network. Since that time, Gleaners has distributed more than half a billion pounds of food and critical grocery products through more than 585 hunger relief agencies, schools and community partners serving needy Hoosiers. In addition to food distribution to agencies, we serve our most vulnerable populations, seniors and children, through specialty programs such as *BackSacks: Weekend Food for Kids*, *School-Based Pantry*, *Mobile Pantry*, *Summer Meals for Kids*, and *Senior Hunger Initiative* programs. Charity Navigator has recognized Gleaners as a 4-Star organization, the highest rating for charity demonstrating fiscal management and accountability. In addition, Gleaners is an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau, and has earned a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. To learn more, visit www.gleaners.org.

About the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center

The Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center is a modern public event facility that annually hosts more than 400 meetings, shows, sports and agricultural events, including the Indiana State Fair. Laid out over 250 acres, the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center is home to more than 1,000,000 square feet of event space and offers the most flexible event venues in the state of Indiana. The year-round management of the Fairgrounds is overseen by the Indiana State Fair Commission which is a quasi-governmental agency that was established in 1992, with the mission to preserve and enhance the Indiana State Fairgrounds and the annual Indiana State Fair for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana. The 2020 Indiana State Fair, with its theme BASKETBALL presented by Pacers Sports & Entertainment, is scheduled for August 7-23. Additional information is available at www.indianastatefair.com.

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