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Indiana State Fair “FAIRS Care Drive-Thru Food Drive” to benefit Gleaners Food Bank, March 20

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. 2/28/18 – In honor of National Ag Day on March 20, the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center and its FAIRS Care program needs your help to provide much needed food relief for the community’s food pantry source, Gleaners Food Bank. The **“FAIRS Care Drive-Thru Food Drive,”** will be held on **Tuesday, March 20 from 6:30 – 9:30 AM and 3:00-6:00 PM** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center, Fall Creek Pavilion Parking Lot (located inside the main entrance off Fall Creek Parkway), at the Gate 6 entrance.

Donors who bring canned and dry goods or monetary donations to the Fairgrounds will receive one complimentary ticket (limited to the first 250 donors) to the 2018 Indiana State Fair to be held Aug 3-19. Suggested nonperishable food items include canned meats like tuna and chicken, soups and ravioli, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and jelly and macaroni and cheese.

“We’re told that Gleaners sees a decline in food donations in March making it a perfect opportunity to host this drive leading up to National Ag Day,” said Cindy Hoyer, executive director of the Indiana State Fair Commission. “Our team members take great pride in giving back and supporting fellow Hoosiers in need and I couldn’t be prouder of this initiative.”

In addition to the “FAIRS Care Drive-Thru Food Drive” two events being held in March at the Fairgrounds will offer attendees an incentive to donate canned or dry goods to benefit Gleaners Food Bank.

- On Monday, March 12, individuals who bring canned or dry goods to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show held in the Expo Hall and West Pavilion will receive a \$4 off discount on admission.
- On Saturday, March 17 (St. Patrick’s Day), individuals who bring GREEN canned or dry goods (green beans, peas, spinach, lentil soup, etc.) to the 7:35 PM Indy Fuel v. Toledo Walleyes “St. Patrick’s Day” game at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum will receive an Indy Fuel promotional item, while supplies last.

About FAIRS Care

Since 2013, the Indiana State Fair has partnered with the Indiana Association of Fairs (INAF) and Feeding Indiana’s Hungry (FiSH) to implement the FAIRS Care County Food Drive program. The goal of FAIRS Care is to raise awareness of local hunger needs and help feed hungry Hoosiers. FAIRS Care

taps the passion and ingenuity of county fairs to ensure impact is felt state-wide. The Top 5 participating counties each earn a donation to their Fair. Fairs Care has raised more than \$83,000 and collected more than 101,000 pounds of food since its inception.

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 2018 Indiana State Fair will be held August 3-19. Additional information is available at www.indianastatefair.com.

About Gleaners Food Bank

On a yearly basis, hundreds of thousands of hungry Hoosiers depend on food and other critical grocery products provided by Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. Gleaners supplies items to hunger relief agencies and schools throughout 21 counties in central and southeastern Indiana.

Gleaners was founded in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America the nation's food bank network. Charity Navigator has recognized Gleaners as a 4-Star organization for seven consecutive years, the highest rating for charity demonstrating fiscal management and accountability. Since its inception, Gleaners has distributed over 450 million pounds of food and critical grocery products to nearly 600 hunger relief agencies and 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 the *BackSacks: Weekend Food for Kids*, *School-Based Pantry*, *Mobile Pantry*, *Summer Meals for Kids*, and *Senior Hunger Initiative* Programs. Increased focus on the nutritional value of distributed food has led to the launch of Produce Hope, a program geared to more than double the amount of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables distributed to the hungry throughout our service area. To learn more, visit www.gleaners.org.

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