



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1202 East 38th Street \* Indianapolis, IN 46205-2869**

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## **Indiana State Fair “FAIRS Care Food Drive” to benefit**

### **Gleaners Food Bank**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. 3/7/2019 – The Indiana State Fair FAIRS Care program needs your help to provide much needed food relief for the community’s food pantry source, Gleaners Food Bank. The Indiana State Fair “**FAIRS Care Food Drive,**” is being presented in conjunction with several events held in March at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center, 1202 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis, Ind.

“Agriculture is the foundation of the Indiana State Fair, so it only makes sense that we would want to help feed hungry Hoosiers,” said Cindy Hoye, executive director of the Indiana State Fair Commission. “We’re told that Gleaners sees a decline in food donations in March so it’s the perfect opportunity for our team to leverage this food drive during some of our large events here at the Fairgrounds.”

Three events being held in March at the Indiana State Fairgrounds will offer attendees an incentive to donate canned or dry goods to benefit Gleaners Food Bank.

- On Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, individuals who bring canned or dry goods to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show held in the Expo Hall and the West Pavilion will receive a \$4 off discount on admission.
- On Saturday and Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>, individuals who bring canned or dry goods to Brickworld will receive a 2X2 LEGO tile printed with the Brickworld logo, while supplies last.
- On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, individuals who bring canned or dry goods to the 7:35 p.m. Indy Fuel v. Fort Wayne Komets game at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum will receive \$5 off admission at all ticket price levels.
- **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY** On, Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. the total amount of donated canned and dry goods will be delivered from the State Fairgrounds to Gleaners.

To learn more about these events and others scheduled at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, visit

[www.IndianaStateFair.com](http://www.IndianaStateFair.com).

**FAIRS Care STORY IDEA:** Pack the Pantries, Noblesville, Indiana. Working in cooperation with FAIRS Care, 4-H Clubs, Extension Homemakers Clubs, Master Gardeners and Purdue Extension families were encouraged to “Pack the Pantries” by bringing donations and canned goods to the Hamilton County 4-H Fair in exchange for tickets to the Indiana State Fair. In 2018, 2,588 pounds of food was collected and \$100 was awarded to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank. Contact information: Susan Peterson, 317-776-0854, [speterson@purdue.edu](mailto:speterson@purdue.edu), 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, Ind.

## **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 the impact is felt state-wide. The Top 5 participating counties each earn a donation to their Fair. FAIRs Care has raised more than \$86,600 and collected more than 158,000 pounds of food since its inception. In 2018, 8,725 tickets to the Indiana State Fair were awarded to 35 Indiana county fairs who participated in the program.

**FAIRs Care is now accepting applications for all Indiana county fairs interested in implementing a food drive that will benefit their local area.**

County fairs interested in participating with FAIRs Care can [sign up](#) on the Indiana State Fair website. The fairs will need to develop and implement a food drive during their 2018 county fair, partner with a local food bank to organize the drive and ensure all donations are used locally. All FAIRs Care applications must be completed by May 17.

## **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 2019 Indiana State Fair, themed Heroes in the Heartland, will be held August 2-18. Additional information is available at [www.indianastatefair.com](http://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](http://www.gleaners.org).