

the GLEANER



Until Every Bowl is Filled

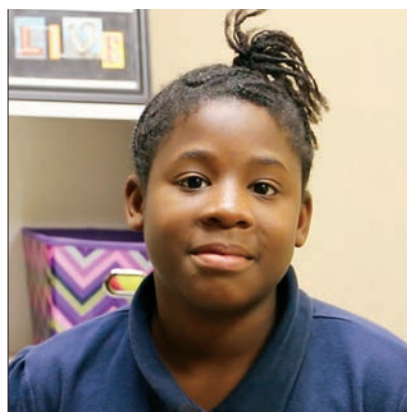
More Than Food, You Deliver Their Chance to Make a Wish Come True

FOR ERICCA AND SAIA helping around the house is a daily occurrence. With mom confined to a wheelchair and six siblings under age 13, the family couldn't survive without the kids working together. While teamwork helps around the house, it unfortunately can't add to the family's income, which is meager and too often not enough to provide food for everyone.

The children remember worrying whether or not they would eat over the weekends. But because of you, Gleaners' *BackSacks: Weekend Food for Kids* program is delivering help and hope.

Across our region, each Friday, the school-based *BackSacks* program provides over 10,000 food-insecure children in kindergarten through sixth grade with enough shelf-stable, nutritious food to keep them fed until they return to class on Monday.

It's been a blessing for families like Ericca's. "I like to cook noodles and macaroni and cheese," the twelve-year-old says. "I like cooking noodles because I don't mess them up," she adds with a smile. Saia is six. She's proud of helping Mom



Ericca



Saia

around the house. "I'm in charge of the living room!" she announces happily. Even she's getting a chance to learn some cooking basics and pitch in around the kitchen.

BackSacks are one more way Gleaners transforms your generosity into more than just a delivery of food. Through you, we're delivering help and hope to students who, rather than worrying about weekend meals, can look to the future. Ericca says that one day, she wants to become a doctor. Saia calls out she will be a nurse when she grows up. Asked why, both answer the same: "So I can help people."

Thank you for making it possible for them to fulfill their greatest wish.

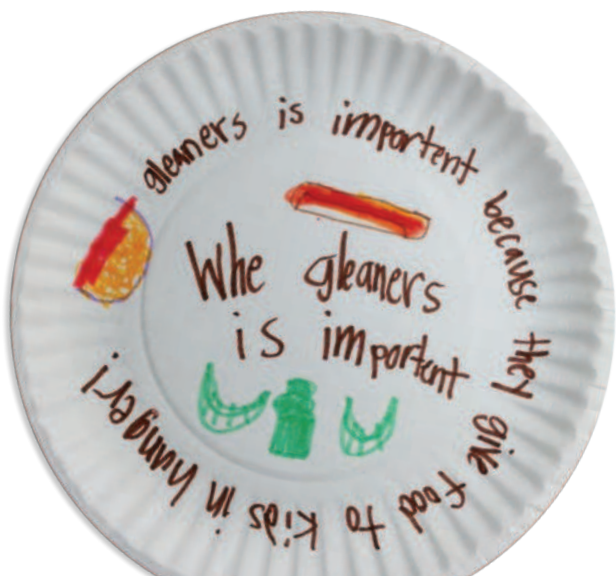
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Hope at the Holidays

THIS WEEK brings us all the annual winter solstice—the shortest, darkest (and sometimes coldest) night of the year.

Yet here inside Gleaners, the spirit of generous giving makes these days among the brightest and warmest of any season! I never cease to be amazed at the overwhelming generosity of neighbors and friends at this time of year.

Even more inspiring to me is the humbleness and gratitude of the people we're serving. Their appreciation comes across in both smiles and tears, in both joyful exclamations of "Thank you so much!" and quiet nods, because sometimes words simply can't express the depths of what they feel.

Much as we would have hoped that by now our hunger lines would be shorter, they are, in fact, growing.

This past year we saw a 22% increase in the number of households served by Gleaners' pantry partners. A recent study also confirmed that more than half of individuals relying on Gleaners must decide between buying food and paying for utilities, or buying food and paying for medical care.

I want to thank you. It is by your goodness that by the time we ring in the New Year, Gleaners will have reached more than 260,000 Hoosiers with more than 20 million meals in 2014. *Nothing* beyond the generosity of so many caring donors and volunteers shines a brighter light of hope into the lives of the children and families turning to us in desperate need this season.

In times like these, thank goodness for friends like you.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Cindy Hubert
President & CEO



Left, the Leininger family

Ho Ho Hope for the Holidays

ON A BITTERLY COLD Saturday morning last December, the Leininger family warmed many hearts upon their visit to Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. Six grandchildren, along with Grandma, came out to personally donate the year-long savings from their "Giving Jars." After discussions to decide which charity they felt was especially important to helping people in need, together they chose Gleaners to receive their gift. The kids felt especially good knowing that their generosity would go to feed others their age. The five jars added up to \$214.06.

Like the Leiningers, each year hundreds of area families work together to make a special gift to Gleaners at year-end. Some collect groceries during their own family celebrations. Others volunteer time at our Indianapolis food pantry or other distribution sites and agencies around the region. And thousands more individuals make generous gifts they know will go far to feed hungry Hoosiers.



Who might benefit by your "Giving Jar" this season?

Corporate Spotlight: Interactive Intelligence

WHEN PEOPLE THINK of high tech companies, they think of California. At Gleaners we think of Indiana—where companies like Interactive Intelligence (ININ) have grown from a small beginning to become an international leader. At the same time, ININ has maintained its charitable priorities right here, close to home.

Gleaners counts Interactive Intelligence as a premier partner for many reasons. Employees volunteer hundreds of hours sorting food, serving on committees, packing BackSacks, and hosting food drives. ININ's charitable foundation supports our *BackSacks: Weekend Food for Kids* program with generous grants; it also highlights Gleaners' work at their annual Foundation Gala. Their generosity extends to a local women's shelter and a camp for children with special needs. How could we ever repay them?

Earlier this year, Gleaners staff nominated Interactive Intelligence for Indiana Philanthropy Day's Outstanding Corporation of 2014. We asked other charities for letters of support (100% of them sent in heart-warming commendations), and ININ went on to receive this coveted honor.

Congratulations to an award-winning company, a fantastic team, and a most generous friend to hungry Hoosiers throughout central and southeast Indiana!



Interactive Intelligence employees volunteer hundreds of hours sorting food, serving on committees, packing BackSacks, and hosting food drives.



Stay Connected!

Keep up to date on the latest news and happenings regarding Gleaners, make secure online donations and share our mission to feed the hungry.

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/GleanersFoodBankofIndiana

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/GleanersFBIndy

Subscribe to our video channel: youtube.com/GleanersFoodBankIndy



Holiday Wish List

More Great Ways to Help Gleaners Feed Indiana's Hungry This Season

AT THE HOLIDAYS and throughout the year, your generosity goes far at Gleaners! For every \$1 you contribute, Gleaners can feed three hungry Hoosiers. Please send your winter donation this month. And/or...**help us fulfill even more wishes by making one or more of the following contributions:**

Purchase and donate gift cards from Kroger or other local grocery store chains, which we'll distribute to families in need!

Host a winter-warm-up drive at your home and ask guests to donate some favorite American comfort foods: canned soups and stews, macaroni and cheese, boxes of hot chocolate packets, cookies, popcorn, etc.

Buy a book for a favorite teen and a portion of your purchase will help Gleaners!*

Drop some coins or bills into the **"Panera Cares" donation canisters** near the checkout of every Panera bakery-cafe.

*Complete these opportunities online at gleaners.org/stay-informed/events-and-happenings



Be part of The Great American Milk Drive by **texting "MILK" to 27722** and for as little as \$5 you'll help get much-needed milk to an area family in need. (Your donation is designated to a local food bank closest to your billing zip code.)*

Help rush the Colts to victory in **Gleaners' online Kick Hunger challenge**, where all the NFL teams are vying for victory to raise the most dollars to fight hunger for their home towns and states.*

Remember, you can qualify to earn a charitable tax deduction for 2014 by returning your gift before December 31, 2014! Thank you for leading the fight against hunger this season.



GLEANERS

FEEDING™
a member of AMERICA

I want to help fight hunger! Please put my gift to work feeding more hungry children and families this holiday season:

\$ _____ \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

I would like more information about:

- volunteering
- donating food or hosting a food drive
- naming Gleaners in my Will

To qualify for a charitable tax deduction in 2014, please send your gift before December 31, 2014.

I would like to pledge a monthly gift of \$ _____
My first gift is enclosed.

Charge my gift to: VISA MC Discover AMEX

CARD NO. _____

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please make your check payable to:

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
3737 Waldemere Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46241-7234

Please call 317.925.0191, ext. 127, to charge your gift by phone, or visit www.gleaners.org to make a gift online.

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.