



Quarterly Newsletter

HUNGER

We can end hunger one helping at a time.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH



FSSA and Feeding Indiana's Hungry sound call for Hoosiers to volunteer at Food Banks

Volunteers are needed as members of the Indiana National Guard ended their temporary, six-month deployment to aid Indiana's food banks on Sept. 30, 2020. Since being deployed in early April, guardsmen served more than 36 million meals to more than 4 million Hoosiers.

"We are so grateful to the Indiana National Guard members who filled a critical gap and provided the workforce needed to keep Indiana's charitable food distribution network operating during the darkest days of the pandemic," said Emily Weikert Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry. "As food banks continue touchless, drive-thru distributions with pre-boxed food in response to COVID-19 safety concerns, the work needed to make this happen has been, and will continue to be, much more than ever before. As the Indiana National Guard service ends, we look forward to seeing more of our friends who have volunteered in the past return – and we're excited to welcome new volunteers, as well."

Hoosiers can volunteer by filling out a brief form at OperationFood.IN.gov. They will be contacted by their regional food bank to match them with volunteer assignments.



**Indiana Family &
Social Services
Administration**



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please volunteer at OperationFood.IN.gov.

Thank you to our friends, donors and partners!

Feeding Indiana's Hungry received several donations this past year to address food insecurity in Indiana. The donations are instrumental in helping make sure we can be there for our neighbors in need during this time of uncertainty.

CareSource | Mazon | PIC Birchwood
Indiana Pork Producers
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Indiana Dairy | Feeding America

Emily Weikert Bryant, Executive Director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry said, "We are so grateful to our partners and friends for this year's donations. This enables us to provide support and resources to the food banks in Indiana that give relief to families and individuals facing food insecurity on a daily basis."



We are so thankful for our supporters! You are helping provide hunger relief for those in need throughout Indiana.



Indiana National Guard Members were deployed to assist food banks

In April, Governor Eric Holcomb announced the deployment of Indiana National Guard members as part of the state's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The guard members assisted food banks with helping feed seniors, families, and displaced workers.

From April - September of 2020, Indiana National Guard members assisted food banks with helping feed seniors, families, and displaced workers.

Indiana's foodbanks have implemented several key changes to address the influx of need as well as protecting staff, volunteers and clients by minimizing person-to-person contact. Foodbanks, along with their 1,750 member food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters, have transitioned to "no-touch" food distribution using drive-through and delivery models, pre-packaged bags and boxes of food, and "to-go" meals.

Statewide, over 1,000 National Guard members and Airmen were deployed at the 11 foodbanks across the state, which provide food to Hoosiers in all 92 counties. The National Guard members assisted Indiana's foodbanks in procuring, sorting, and packing food into bags and boxes; distributing that food through "no-touch" food distributions and deliveries. They also supported other logistical



needs to protect public health and safety while helping maintain daily foodbank operations.

Photos compiled from the [Indiana National Guard Food Bank Support](#) video.

Feeding Indiana's Hungry Statement on the Release of the House of Representatives' Updated HEROES Act

Statement attributed to Emily Weikert Bryant, Executive Director

"Feeding Indiana's Hungry strongly supports the 15 percent benefit increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) included in the updated HEROES Act introduced in the House of Representatives. This past year, Feeding America's network of 200 food banks and 60,000 partner food pantries and meal programs have served more than 5 billion meals to our neighbors in need. Here in Indiana, the eleven Feeding America affiliate food banks distributed more than 87,000,000 meals in just the first six months of the COVID pandemic, more than any other six month period in our history, with the hard work and long hours of dedicated food bank staff, volunteers, and the Indiana National Guard. Yet for every meal the Feeding America network provides, SNAP provides nine. As our nation's public health and economic crises continue with no end in sight, investing in SNAP is an efficient and cost-effective way to help families keep their pantries full while also stimulating economic activity in Indiana and elsewhere.

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"In addition, Feeding Indiana's Hungry is grateful that the recently introduced bill invests an additional \$450 million to help food banks meet the growing need for food assistance through The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Since the onset of COVID-19, the Feeding America network has reported, on average, an increase in demand of about 60 percent. As the capacity of food banks becomes more stretched than ever, we are pleased that the bill strengthens our ability to do what we do best: feed families. Additionally, we support the bill's inclusion of additional vital investments in and improvements to SNAP, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), child nutrition programs, and school and child care programs to help households facing hardship.

"Every day, the member food banks of Feeding Indiana's Hungry help Hoosier families have enough to eat, but we cannot meet the need alone. As Hoosiers and people across the country face the highest food prices in 50 years and as unemployment benefit claims surpass 50 million, strong investments in both federal nutrition programs and the charitable sector are essential so families do not have to choose between putting food on the table and paying their rent. More than ever, we need our lawmakers to come together and pass a bill that strengthens every tool at our disposal to significantly curb hunger in our country. The federal nutrition provisions in this proposed bill are a critical step in that direction and we

ask our Hoosier federal delegation to act to ensure our friends and neighbors aren't forced to make unimaginable choices to feed their families.”



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PRE-ANNOUNCING

DURING COVID-19, INDIANA'S FEEDING AMERICA FOOD BANKS HAVE DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 78 MILLION MEALS

September is Hunger Action Month

FEEDING INDIANA'S HUNGRY
MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA
feedingindianahungry.org

September was Hunger Action Month

Hunger Action Month® is the Feeding America network's nationwide campaign, during the month of September, to raise awareness and take action on the issue of hunger.

Here are some [ways you can help](#) from Feeding America.

In case you missed it, Feeding Indiana's Hungry had a presence in the Indianapolis Star in late September for Hunger Action Month. This graphic highlights the 11 member food banks of Feeding Indiana's Hungry that are working around the clock to help families in need keep food on the table.

Food banks, however, cannot do this work alone. The only way to ensure no one goes hungry during, and after, the COVID-19 crisis is through both a strong charitable sector and deep government investment in our federal nutrition programs.

Donate

About Feeding Indiana's Hungry

Feeding Indiana's Hungry, Inc. is the statewide association of Feeding America affiliated food banks.

Member food banks include:

Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, Merrillville

Food Bank of Northern Indiana, South Bend

Food Finders Food Bank, Inc., Lafayette

Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Ft. Wayne

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, Inc., Muncie

Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank, Terre Haute

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Indianapolis

Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Bloomington

Tri-State Food Bank, Inc., Evansville

Dare to Care Food Bank, Louisville, KY

Freestore Foodbank, Cincinnati, OH

This message was sent to you by Feeding Indiana's Hungry.

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