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**ANNUAL HUNGER FREE SUMMER CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS GOAL**

*Charter One Foundation celebrates with Gleaners and Children from Summer Feeding Sites*

(August 21, 2014 – Detroit, MI) ... The southeast Michigan community has done it again – exceeding the 2014 Hunger Free Summer campaign goal! **On Monday, August 25, 2014**, Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Gleaners) and the Charter One Foundation will celebrate with a special distribution event where they will provide 100 children with lunch and a backpack filled with school supplies. **The event will be held at the Martin Luther King Apartments, from 11:30am – 1pm.**

Campaign leaders are excited to report the 2014 Hunger Free Summer campaign provided more than 2 million meals to hungry children in southeast Michigan. The campaign increased the number of children receiving summer meals significantly while showing a cost savings through increased mobile distribution and providing 50 percent more breakfasts at stationary sites.

With the support of additional match partners – Ford Motor Company, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Andiamo Restaurant Group, David & Cherie A. Bazy, The Joshua (Jim) and Eunice Stone Foundation, The Grainger Foundation, MGM Grand Detroit, American Specialty Oils, Nextep Systems, Rick Young Insurance and Butzel Long – all donations made to Hunger Free Summer have been doubled.

“Gleaners is grateful to everyone who pitched in and made this year another success for children in southeast Michigan, said Gleaners President Gerry Brisson. “Charter One’s consistent support for this critical issue has made a tremendous impact on kids in Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Livingston, and Monroe Counties.”

More than 300,000 children in southeast Michigan rely on free or reduced-fee meals during the school year. When the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are unavailable, these children and their families risk missing meals. For the fourth year, the Hunger Free Summer campaign worked with companies and communities throughout southeast Michigan to help alleviate childhood hunger.

One hundred children will gather at the Martin Luther King Apartments (595 Chene Street, Detroit) to eat lunch, receive backpacks filled with school supplies – part of Charter One Foundation’s Gear for Grades program – and celebrate the happy, hunger free summer they have enjoyed thanks to this year’s campaign. After lunch the children will join volunteers from Charter One and Gleaners, dancing to Pharrel’s iconic *Happy* song, the theme song of this year’s campaign.

“With the rising cost of school supplies, the Gear for Grades program helps to ease the financial strain parents face this time of year as they prepare to send their children back to school,” said Richard Hampson, President, Charter One and RBS Citizens, Michigan. “We are proud to play a small role in contributing to the academic success of so many local children who return to the classroom ready to learn.”

Hunger Free Summer donations were matched dollar-for-dollar. Every \$1 donation provided six nutritious meals for hungry children in southeast Michigan.

**About Gleaners Community Food Bank**

For over 37 years, Gleaners Community Food Bank has been “feeding hungry people and nourishing our communities.” Last year, Gleaners distributed 41 million pounds of emergency food to more than 550 partner soup kitchens, shelters and pantries in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Monroe counties. Gleaners helps alleviate hunger by providing the equivalent of nearly 100,000 meals per day to people who otherwise cannot afford the food they need. Of every dollar donated, Gleaners uses 94 cents for food and food programs. One dollar provides three meals. Learn more at [www.gcfb.org](http://www.gcfb.org).

**About the Charter One Foundation**

Charter One Foundation is a subsidiary of the Citizens Charitable Foundation, which is a charitable contributions vehicle of Citizens Financial Group, Inc., Citizens Bank, N.A. and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. The foundation’s support is focused on human services, affordable housing and economic development. Charter One’s website is [charterone.com](http://charterone.com).

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