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ANNUAL HUNGER FREE SUMMER CAMPAIGN SHOWS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

(July 28, 2014 - Detroit, MI)... With just five weeks to the end of their annual [Hunger Free Summer](#) campaign, Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Gleaners) and the Charter One Foundation are pleased to report that this year's initiative has thus far provided 1,466,643 meals to hungry children. With the help of generous match sponsors and community donors, Gleaners is over halfway to reaching the campaign goal of providing 2 million meals to children in southeast Michigan during the summer months.

In addition to the underwriting support from the Charter One Foundation, donations are being matched dollar-for-dollar by 13 corporate and community partners. Every \$1 donated provides six meals to hungry kids.

This year the Hunger Free Summer campaign has shown growth in two areas: mobile lunch delivery, and breakfasts offered at stationary program sites - as well as some additional programming: 15 stationary lunch sites enjoyed a nutrition education activity, encouraging the young "students" to try new food options to expand their diets.

Mobile lunch outreach is making a significant impact; increasing the number of children receiving summer meals, adding routes in the Belleville and Inkster communities and demonstrating a cost savings to Gleaners. Children receiving breakfast at the program's stationary summer feeding sites have increased by over 50 percent.

A pilot program last summer, the mobile lunch routes delivering nutritious meals directly to children in their neighborhoods, has proven to be a winning program. Gleaners' President Gerry Brisson explains, "We've been able to reach children in high-need neighborhoods, where many of the kids don't participate in stationary-site summer programs. The kids run to the trucks when they hear them coming (they play music)." Mobile trucks bring more than nutrition - they also offer the children simple games like hula hoops, jump ropes and more, make eating lunch fun (children must eat their meal before play).

The risk of children going hungry intensifies during the summer when programs like the National School Lunch Program are not available. The Hunger Free Summer campaign helps feed the more than 300,000 children in southeast Michigan who receive free or reduced-fee meals during the school year.

Gleaners' School-Based Mobile Pantry(s) reach hungry children in high-need communities by delivering healthy food through a large-scale, one-day food distribution. Each distribution provides up to 150 households with the equivalent of 25 meals of nutritious food, including protein and fresh produce.

"We are extremely thankful to Charter One Foundation for their leadership in championing the Hunger Free Summer campaign, and to our match donors who are doubling the impact of every donation made by our generous community members," said Gleaners President Gerry Brisson.

Now through September 1, 2014, donations can be made:

- Online at www.hungerfreesummer.org
- Calling 855-315-FOOD(3663)
- Text "EAT" to 85944 (a \$10 donation will be added to donor's cell phone bill-message & data rates may apply)
- Checks by mail: Gleaners, 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, MI 48207 (Please note "Hunger Free Summer" on memo line.)

Twitter @HungerFreeSummr and Facebook.com/HungerFreeSummer --- #HappyNotHungry

About Gleaners Community Food Bank

For over 37 years, Gleaners Community Food Bank has been "nourishing communities by feeding hungry people." 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.