



# Healthy Food for Families

(Agency Partners: Food Pantries Soup Kitchens, Shelters and Daycare Centers)

## What is an Agency Partner?

An agency partner is a local food pantry, soup kitchen, shelter or daycare center distributing food to neighbors in need in their local community. Most of Gleaners' pantries are open at least once per month and allow shoppers to visit to get food at least once every 30 days. Often, agency partners are operating a food pantry from a local church or community center and are run by volunteers from the local community. Local food pantries are encouraged to get food from multiple sources and not to rely solely on food from Gleaners. Retail donations and local food drives at schools and churches help to stock these pantries.

Gleaners has approximately 240 agency partners throughout its 21-county service area. Some are open more than once per month and offer shoppers a chance to come more often if needed. Gleaners' agency partners are serving their local communities with access to fresh produce and shelf-stable pantry items.

## Why are Agency Partners needed?

Approximately 40% of the 33 million pounds of food Gleaners moves each year is distributed through traditional agency partners in Gleaners' 21-county service area.

The logistics of distributing food to 100+ small sites with little impact is prohibitive to efficiency. To improve efficiency, many agency partners in outer counties pick up donations from local retail stores, which helps keep Gleaners' transportation costs lower and keep local pounds in rural counties.

Agency Partners are able to share best practices with each other and offer support as they serve their neighbors in need within their counties. Many of Gleaners' agency partners are involved in local coalitions to assist with hunger relief and other types of community assistance in their county.

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