

GLEANERS

CARE Mobile Pantry

(Community Action Relief Effort)



The *CARE program* began three years ago after an analytical review of public safety and quality of life issues by the Indianapolis Public Safety Department. In this review, the connectivity between hunger and other social issues, including crime, became clear. Specifically, many crimes occur when people steal food, or steal money to buy food.

Following this review, Gleaners worked with the Public Safety Departments to develop a collaborative engagement program to address the issue of hunger in six key “intersections” in Indianapolis where there is higher crime, lack of educational achievement, unemployment and feelings of isolation.

CARE Mobile Pantries: 72 mobile pantry distributions occur during the summer in the 6 focus areas of Indianapolis. For the last 3 years, Gleaners has served more than 180,000 people. This past year alone, 20,000 Indianapolis families relied on these mobile pantries to get them through the summer months when school was out and the meals provided during the school day were unavailable to their children. Outreach services were offered at many mobile distributions, including mental health information, health services, Summer Meals for Kids, library book lending, and more.

CARE Bags: The *CARE program* expanded earlier this year to help Indianapolis police officers meet desperate needs they encounter day in and day out. As part of a new pilot program, *CARE bags* are placed in police cruisers giving officers an immediate tool to assist a family in need. These bags contain enough food for a family to make 8 to 12 meals. The program launched in the IMPD East District and will soon expand to IMPD North District.

Fun Fact: In 2017, nearly half the food distributed at *CARE Mobile Pantries* was fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables. That’s more than 350,000 lbs!

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