



CARE Mobile Pantry

(Community Action Relief Effort)



The *CARE program* began four years ago after an in-depth 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, crimes that 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” of Indianapolis where there is higher crime, lack of educational achievement, unemployment and feelings of isolation.

CARE Mobile Pantries: 71 mobile pantry distributions are scheduled during the summer in the 6 focus areas of Indianapolis. For the last four years, Gleaners has served more than 251,000 people. This past year alone, 23,000 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 and more.

CARE Bags: The *CARE program* continues to expand in an effort to help Indianapolis police officers meet desperate needs they encounter day in and day out. *CARE bags* are placed in police cruisers giving officers an immediate tool to assist a family in need. The bag contains enough food for a family to make up to 8 meals. The program launched in 2017 and now includes almost all of the IMPD Districts along with Lawrence Police Department, Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department and Rush County Police.

Did you know, in 2018, nearly half the food distributed at *CARE Mobile Pantries* was fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables? That’s more than 300,000 pounds of produce!

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