

# THE OAKLAND PRESS

## Gleaners Food Bank launches Hunger Free Summer campaign

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Gleaners Community Food Bank was joined by Citizens Bank volunteers for the launch of its Hunger Free Summer campaign at Tindal Activity Center in Detroit.

Gerald Brisson, president and CEO of Gleaners, is pictured with Brittany O'Connor, vice president, senior public affairs market manager for Citizens Bank, with Summer Jam Day Camp campers.

Photo submitted by Gleaners Community Food Bank

Gleaners Community Food Bank launched its ninth annual Hunger Free Summer campaign at the end of June.

Gerry Brisson, president and CEO of Gleaners, said, "We know that, without access to breakfast and lunch at school, many kids in our community will spend the summer

wondering where their next meal will come from. We cannot let that happen. That's why our summer programs and Hunger Free Summer campaign are so critical."

"We are dedicated to providing more than 4.5 million meals this summer to ensure kids get the nutrition they need to grow, be healthy and thrive."

During the 12-week campaign – lasting through Labor Day – Citizens Bank, the Toni Wisne Sabina Foundation, General Motors, Ford and other sponsors will match all donations, dollar-for-dollar, made to Gleaners. Every dollar donated will provide six nutritious lunches and/or breakfasts to local kids.

"Giving back to the communities we serve goes to the heart of our DNA at Citizens Bank," said Rick Hampson, president of Citizens Bank, Michigan. "Serving as a match partner for 'Hunger Free Summer' was an easy choice with Gleaners' commitment to kids and their families, as well as its reach across southeast Michigan, at such a critical time of year."

Gleaners will provide these nutritious meals at more than 90 summer meal sites. The sites will be operational five days per week and some on Saturdays, with nearly 70 percent of the sites to serve both breakfast and lunch. Many summer meal program sites will also provide educational, enrichment, physical and/or recreational activities in safe, supervised environments.

New in 2019, 10 sites in Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties will receive Weekend Backpacks, which provide nutritious food to supplement well-rounded weekend meals throughout the summer. Additionally, Gleaners will reach children through nearly 90 monthly mobile pantry distributions in high-need communities that serve approximately 100 families each. Families across the region also will have access to fruit, vegetables, whole grains and protein through Gleaners' network of 528 partner soup kitchens, pantries and shelters.

To participate in the Hunger Free Summer match campaign, donors can securely donate online at [www.hungerfreesummer.org](http://www.hungerfreesummer.org), call 855-315-FOOD (3663) or mail checks to Gleaners Community Food Bank (P.O. Box 44050, Detroit, MI 48244-0050). Checks should include "Hunger Free Summer" on the memo line to ensure the donation is matched.

[https://www.theoaklandpress.com/lifestyles/suburban/gleaners-food-bank-launches-hunger-free-summer-campaign/article\\_ed6506b4-9c3d-11e9-811c-1341f8cd02c9.html](https://www.theoaklandpress.com/lifestyles/suburban/gleaners-food-bank-launches-hunger-free-summer-campaign/article_ed6506b4-9c3d-11e9-811c-1341f8cd02c9.html)