

STATE

Gleaners Food Bank launches Hunger Free Summer campaign

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEANERS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

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.

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, 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.

— Tom Wegehaupt, for MediaNewsGroup

ROYAL OAK

HEROIC EFFORT

'Superheroes' walk at Detroit Zoo to raise \$68K for Children's Miracle Network



About 1,200 people of all ages, dressed as their favorite superheroes or other characters, attended Beaumont Children's "Walk for Miracles" at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak. The event raised \$68,000, which will benefit the Children's Miracle Network. Farmington Hills Happy Feet Group from Beaumont Farmington Hills and the Watson Family from Southfield were among the supporters. Walkers had the opportunity to meet former Detroit Red Wing defenseman Jason Woolley (pictured) and WOMC host Beau Daniels.

— Submitted by Chris Morrisroe

CLARKSTON

Local artist's watercolor painting displayed at Historical Society

Alex Gilford, on behalf of the Detroit Institute of Arts, recently donated an original watercolor painting to the Clarkston Community Historical Society.

The Clarkston native's painting, titled "Village of Clarkston," was transformed into a mural at Union Woodshop in downtown Clarkston last year through a partnership between the DIA and the Clarkston Cultural Arts Council.

"The painting has played a special and unique role in our city, and we are excited to preserve this piece of our community's history," said Toni Smith, director of the Clarkston Heritage Museum.

"It beautifully captures the essence of Clarkston

from someone who has experienced it first-hand. We treasure this painting and look forward to displaying it for future generations to enjoy."

Gilford's mural was one of three Community Public Art Projects facilitated by the DIA and local nonprofits in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties last year.

"Public art pieces like the Clarkston mural are a unique way for the DIA to bring artwork into communities for residents to enjoy," said Salvador Salort-Pons, DIA director. "We're excited the original painting will soon be on display in the community for many years to come."

— Submitted by Rachel Perkins



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Toni Smith, director of the Clarkston Heritage Museum, and Alex Gilford stand with the watercolor painting that was transformed into a mural at Union Woodshop in downtown Clarkston last year through a partnership between the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Clarkston Cultural Arts Council.

WEST BLOOMFIELD



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFERHURVITZ.COM

West Bloomfield native Jennifer Hurvitz holds copies of her new book, "Woulda. Coulda. Shoulda. A Divorce Coach's Guide to Staying Married."

Woman uses own divorce experience to help others

Best-selling author and West Bloomfield native Jennifer Hurvitz has a new book for married couples who want to stay married.

Sharing personal experiences from her own divorce, Hurvitz paints an honest (at times brutally so) picture of what it's like to be divorced and tips for how to avoid it.

Hurvitz, author of the self-help book "One Happy Divorce," recently released her second book "Woulda. Coulda. Shoulda. A Divorce Coach's Guide to Staying Married," published by Warren Publishing. In it, she offers a look at what the divorce process really looks like for those contemplating a separation or divorce, or those already going through one.

"(I'm a) 'happily' divorced mom of two healthy, well-adjusted teenaged boys, so I bet you're wondering why the heck I'd write this book," said Hurvitz, who returned to her hometown this week to speak at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield on Tuesday. "Well, it's simple. I messed up. And now it's my job to stop others from doing the same."

Hurvitz started her dating and relationship blog

"The Truth Hurvitz" after she and her husband separated. The blog garnered attention from an LA agency that approached her for a sitcom about her family. Her first book soon followed. Next came her podcast, "Doing Divorce Right," which was named one of the 5 Best Divorce Podcasts to Get You Through It All in 2018 by women.com, with 10,000 downloads and counting.

Jason Levoy, attorney and national divorce coach, said of Hurvitz, "Jennifer went through a divorce and knows what it's like on the other side. Her advice and insight to getting divorced and living a post-divorce life will help you make the best decisions." "Woulda. Coulda. Shoulda." is a must-read if you are contemplating divorce.

"Woulda. Coulda. Shoulda." is available at warrenpublishing.net, amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. To read Hurvitz's blog or listen to her podcast, visit her website at jenniferhurvitz.com.

— Submitted by Sari Cicurel