



# GLEANERS HIGHLIGHTS

## WHO:

### *Initiative Name:*

Quarantine/Emergency Food Box Program ("Q Box")

### *Contact for Questions:*

- Cara Rayner, Director of Operations & Project Management
- David Black, Operations & Transportation Director

### *Funding or Organizational Partners:*

- USDA, FEMA, Feeding America, Food Bank Council of Michigan, Aging and Adult Services Agency, Ralph Wilson Foundation, Michigan Veterans Foundation, Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, Michigan National Guard

## WHAT:

### *Teams and Departments Involved & How They Contribute:*

- **Operations:** Acquires a variety of wholesome shelf-stable food items. Manages the packing and distribution of boxes to community partners.
- **Programs - Nutrition Education:** Creates a menu of well-balanced food for each type of box in alignment with all necessary guidelines (i.e. USDA). Provides tailored recipes and nutrition information.
- **Programs - Community Engagement:** Establishes relationships with a wide range of partners to help distribute boxes to vulnerable populations.
- **Advancement:** Collaborates with external partners, including the Food Bank Council of Michigan, to raise financial support. Reports on the success and reach of program to Gleaners' donors and general audience.



**“ My father lives at Newburgh Village in Livonia and received a box of food. We appreciate the kindness and caring Gleaners has provided. We appreciate the hard work that goes into making all this happen.”**  
-- Rich Parsons from Livonia

## WHERE & HOW:

### **Scope:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gleaners and our partners launched efforts to provide boxes of shelf-stable emergency food to at-risk individuals facing new or ongoing barriers to accessing healthy meals. Box assembly began in April at Gleaners' Oakland County Distribution Center with the assistance of the Michigan National Guard. Through a partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan and statewide Aging and Adult Services Agency of the MDHHS and its affiliated Area Agencies on Aging, boxes began to be delivered to seniors throughout Michigan. By May, the box assembly expanded to Gleaners' distribution center and temporary warehouse space in Detroit. This program continues to operate during the pandemic crisis.

### **Community Impact:**

Gleaners carefully designs each box menu with enough nutritionally balanced shelf-stable foods for approximately 24 meals. The food is both healthy and versatile, allowing guests to use the products in multiple ways and prepare wholesome breakfast, lunch and dinner options. Boxes also include custom recipe and nutrition information.

During the 2020 fiscal year, Gleaners distributed more than 108,500 emergency food boxes to our hungry neighbors. This equals more than 2.6 million meals! By deepening relationships with more than 120 community organizations, this program helps deliver wholesome food to healthcare patients, veterans, young mothers, formerly homeless, migrant workers and other vulnerable populations. This work allowed Gleaners to expand our COVID-19 response efforts and reach those that might not be served by our drive-up food distribution sites through partnerships that provided home deliveries.

**“ Getting the food means that I can feed my family a balanced meal.”**  
-- Michael Cooper, Army Veteran from Detroit

