

# News Release



For Release: January 11, 2017

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G L E A N E R S

## Grand Opening January 21 Bulldog Blessings Food Pantry at Monroe-Gregg Schools Community Foundation of Morgan County Awards Grant to Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana

**Morgan County, Ind.** – 1 in 3 students at Monrovia Elementary receive free or reduced lunch assistance. The *Bulldog Blessings Food Pantry* was established to address this issue of childhood hunger in the [Monroe-Gregg School District](#). The newly established pantry allows the district to provide food and personal hygiene items to students, student families, and staff who are food insecure.

The [Community Foundation of Morgan County](#) awarded [Gleaners Food Bank](#) a \$7,000 Impact Grant to fund the purchase of two refrigerators for the *Bulldog Blessings Food Pantry*, as well as supporting monthly food distributions to stock the pantry.

The pantry project is a collaborative effort between the Community Foundation, Gleaners Food Bank, and a memorial fund established by Beth Ann Gore in memory of her daughter and former Monrovia High School student, Meredith Knieper, who passed in 2015. In addition to faculty, community members volunteer their time to assist with pantry distribution, and students are responsible for sorting/stocking shelves. Due to the collaboration, the pantry has served 129 student community members since November 2016.

Melissa York, principal at Monrovia Elementary, spoke to what the new pantry has meant to the district. “Our food pantry has been such a blessing to our students at MES. We can rest assured that our families have access to food as needed. This allows for our students to no longer worry about if they will have food when they leave school. Now they can focus on the joys of being a child.”

John Elliott, President of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, noted that school-based pantries are a way to serve the whole family. “Our BackSacks program has helped to address the needs of the children, but a school-based pantry is more of a holistic approach to feeding the family. If the child is hungry, chances are that other household members are also hungry,” he said.

The community is invited to attend the pantry’s grand opening celebration and logo reveal on Saturday, January 21st at 8:30 am. Attendees should enter through the Monrovia High School front entrance. Refreshments will be provided.

### About the Community Foundation of Morgan County

Our mission is to connect donors and their charitable giving with our evolving community needs in order to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations through impact grant making. The vision is for the Community Foundation of Morgan County to be the philanthropic leader and a catalyst in order to maximize available resources in our county. For more information, please visit [cfmconline.org](http://cfmconline.org).

**About Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.**

On a yearly basis, hundreds of thousands of hungry Hoosiers depend on food and other critical grocery products provided by Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. Gleaners supplies items to hunger relief agencies and schools throughout 21 counties in central and southeastern Indiana.

Gleaners was founded in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America the nation's food bank network. Charity Navigator has recognized Gleaners as a 4-Star organization for six consecutive years, the highest rating for charity demonstrating fiscal management and accountability. Since its inception, Gleaners has distributed over 320 million pounds of food and critical grocery products to over 200 hunger relief agencies serving needy Hoosiers. In addition to food distribution to hunger relief agencies, Gleaners serves our most vulnerable populations, seniors and children, through specialty programs such as the *BackSacks: Weekend Food for Kids*, *School-Based Pantry*, *Mobile Pantry*, *Summer Meals for Kids*, and *Senior Hunger Initiative* Programs. To learn more, visit [gleaners.org](http://gleaners.org).

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