

## Food Bank of Northwest Indiana

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Supplying food to local pantries  
for more than 25 years

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FRESH IS FUN! PRODUCE GIVEAWAY WILL HELP THOSE IN NEED

### The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to Host Free Mini Farmers Market

Gary, IN— On Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana will be holding a produce giveaway at the JEWEL-OSCO in Dyer (805 Joliet St.) from 5pm to 7pm. In addition to the produce, there will also be cooking demonstrations by Chef Jack of Comfort Caterings, nutrition information provided by members of the Purdue Extension EFNEP program, and crafts for kids. This is a family friendly event.

“This is the first time we’re doing a produce giveaway like this so we’re very excited. There are a lot of families struggling to make ends meet right now, and many times when they go to the grocery store they can’t afford to get fresh produce since it’s so expensive. We’re happy to be able to help provide an option for people who are struggling yet still want to be able to provide fresh, healthy food for their families,” explains Megan Sikes, Food Bank Communications/Advocacy Manager.

The giveaway is part of the Food Bank’s campaign to raise awareness during Hunger Action Month. It is being supported by the funds raised at local JEWEL-OSCO stores during the month of September. “JEWEL-OSCO has been a great Hunger Action Month partner for us over the past few years,” says Sikes. “They are not only collecting food donations in their stores, which will go back to local pantries, but they are also collecting money at the registers to support the Food Bank. The funds that people donate during checkout will be used to pay for the produce for Fresh is Fun!” she adds.

The Food Bank plans on having apples, oranges, tomatoes, onions, potatoes and cucumbers available for the first 500 families that attend. The giveaway is open to Indiana residents only. To receive the produce, an individual must have valid proof of residency in the state of Indiana. Illinois residents are urged to contact the Greater Chicago Food Depository at 773-247-3663 for assistance.

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is located in Gary and supplies food to over 100 pantries and soup kitchens in Lake and Porter Counties. In addition to distributing food to their member agencies the Food Bank also runs the Backpack, Kid’s Café, Mobile Pantry, Food Rescue and Pantry on the Go programs and offers pantry referrals. Last year the Food Bank distributed over 4.7 million pounds of food, and served over 5,000 individuals a week.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview please call or email Megan Sikes.