

## Food Bank of Northwest Indiana

2248 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Gary, IN 46408  
Phone: 219-980-1777  
Fax: 219-980-1720  
[www.foodbanknwi.org](http://www.foodbanknwi.org)



Supplying food to local pantries  
for more than 25 years

Contact: Megan Sikes  
Communication/Advocacy Manager  
219-980-1777 ext. 305  
[msikes@foodbanknwi.org](mailto:msikes@foodbanknwi.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WALK FOR HUNGER TO TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hope's Harvest 5K Walk/Fun Run to Benefit Local Pantries

Gary, IN— On October 15<sup>th</sup> the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana will host their 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hope's Harvest 5K Walk/Run for the hungry at Wicker Park in Highland from 9am to 1pm. All proceeds from the walk will go to participating food pantries and soup kitchens to use to stock their shelves this holiday season and throughout the year. Last year's walk raised over \$53,000. The Walk/Run was formerly known as the Good News! 5K Walk and Fun Run for Hunger.

With 1 in 4 Hoosier children not knowing where their next meal is coming from, the need for hunger relief is great. "More and more people are coming to the pantries in need of food so it's taking more time, more food and more money to keep the pantries stocked," says Chanda Dixon, Food Bank Special Events Manager and staffer in charge of the annual walk. "This is a great opportunity for people to get involved and have fun while helping those in need," adds Dixon.

"The Food Bank covers all the overhead for the walk through sponsorships so that all donations can go directly to the pantries," explains Dixon. "We're extremely grateful to all our sponsors, especially Strack & Van Til, NIPSCO and the Northwest Indiana McDonald's Operators."

Last year's walk drew a record 600 people, and the Food Bank is looking to match or surpass that attendance this year. The Food Bank has created a brand new website for participants to not only register, but also collect their donations online. Everyone who registers will receive their own personalized donation page. The website also features information about the Food Bank, a hunger quiz and bulletin boards so that teams and individuals can communicate with each other via the website.

Entrants for the walk/run can register as part of a team or as an individual. Individuals who can't make it to the actual event, but still want to be able to collect donations can register as a virtual walker. Teams of students are encouraged, as long as they are accompanied by at least one adult team leader. Registration is free for all walkers, \$25 for runners and \$10 for virtual participants. Register online at [www.hopesharvest.kintera.org](http://www.hopesharvest.kintera.org).

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 and interview please call or email Megan Sikes.