

For Immediate Release

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Second Helpings and Pacers Sports & Entertainment achieve Zero Waste event at Corks & Forks fundraiser at Bankers Life Fieldhouse

Indianapolis (March 20, 2018) – Second Helpings, the food rescue, hunger relief and culinary job training organization in Central Indiana partnered with venue staff at Bankers Life Fieldhouse and Julia Spangler, Sustainable Events Consultant, to achieve a zero waste milestone for its annual Corks & Forks fundraiser held on March 14, 2018 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

Corks & Forks 2018 achieved a waste diversion rate of 92%. This means that 92% of the waste generated by the event was recycled or composted, and only 8% were disposed of as trash. The definition of a zero waste event is an event that diverts 90% of discarded resources from landfills or incinerators. This definition is based on guidelines set forth by the [Zero Waste International Alliance](#).

The move towards a zero waste event is one that falls in line with the principles that guide Second Helpings' day-to-day operations. Since 1998, Second Helpings has rescued more than 30 million pounds of prepared and perishable food from wholesalers, retailers and restaurants. That rescued food was transformed by volunteers and staff into more than 11.5 million meals prepared and delivered for free to nonprofit partner agencies throughout Central Indiana. Currently, Second Helpings annually rescues around 2.5 million pounds of food and transforms it into more than 1 million meals.

"Reaching zero waste at an event of this nature is complex," Spangler said. "Second Helpings and Pacers Sports & Entertainment fully committed to the goal and set a leading example of the level of sustainability it's possible to achieve at an event in Central Indiana."

Corks & Forks was the first event at Bankers Life Fieldhouse to meet zero waste standards, and it will serve as a model for sustainability efforts for events under the Pacers Sports & Entertainment umbrella going forward.

"Led by the efforts of our senior director of sustainability Doug Weitkamp, we are proud to partner with Second Helpings in achieving this zero waste goal," said Pacers Sports & Entertainment President and COO Rick Fuson. "We will continue to look for ways to be as environmentally responsible as possible in all the events we bring to Bankers Life Fieldhouse."

Corks & Forks brings together more than 20 of Indy's top chefs and mixologists at the most exclusive spaces at Bankers Life Fieldhouse for an evening of delicious food, live music, local beer, wine and craft cocktails in support of Second Helpings' mission to transform lives through the power of food. The

success of Corks & Forks is a testament to Indy's vibrant restaurant scene, and its willingness to rally behind a cause its chefs and owners believe in.

At Second Helpings, we're helping transform lives through the power of food. By accepting donated perishable and overstocked food, we prepare nutritious meals for thousands of hungry children and adults every day and distribute them free of charge through social service agencies in Greater Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.secondhelpings.org.