



*Pictured here are trucks from Gleaners, Second Helpings, and Midwest Food Bank, all members of the Indy Hunger Network, who collaborated on a mobile food distribution at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway this winter.*

## Indy Hunger Network Study Reveals Pandemic's Impact on Food Insecurity

Second Helpings' partners at the Indy Hunger Network (IHN) recently released the 2020 edition of their "Unmet Need Study," after conducting two surveys – both before and after COVID-19 reached central Indiana – to determine if community efforts are providing enough meals to meet the needs identified by respondents.

In the timeframe studied, IHN found that the proportion of Marion County residents needing food assistance grew from 20% in February 2020 (pre-pandemic) to 28% in June. IHN also found that African Americans are disproportionately impacted by hunger, needing food assistance at a 50% higher rate than the general population of Marion County. Moreover, 80% of households surveyed reported that at least one member was employed full time.

While the study outlines sobering details about the state of food insecurity (the lack of consistent access to enough food for a healthy life) in our community, IHN did report some good news too. In the same short period (February-June 2020), the number of meals made available by nonprofit organizations and government agencies in Marion County nearly doubled, thanks to expanded efforts across our community.

Second Helpings is part of that effort. The number of meals we produced in one month grew from 145,710 in February to 324,100 in June – more than doubling our output in less than four months.

This drastic increase in capacity would not have been possible without generous supporters across our community, new partnerships with satellite kitchens (local restaurants contracted to prepare additional Second Helpings meals), and a community partnership to offer home delivery.

Because organizations across central Indiana stepped up to provide more meals in creative ways, IHN could report that "the huge increase in the amount of food assistance needed was largely addressed by an increase in the food supply." That means the work we do together made a critical impact to meet the need created by this pandemic.

Of course, there is so much more work to be done to ensure that our neighbors have access to the food they need. Thank you for supporting Second Helpings and making it possible to continue efforts to feed Indy – long after the pandemic leaves the headlines.

*The full report can be found online at [indyhunger.org/studies-reports](https://indyhunger.org/studies-reports).*



FOOD RESCUE

# Second Helpings partners with WISH-TV 8 for first “Gr8 Pasta Push”

In November, Second Helpings was excited to partner with local station WISH-TV 8 for a community-wide pasta and fund drive to feed Indy.

For two weeks, WISH-TV 8 ran commercials featuring interviews with Second Helpings staff, and encouraged their audience to donate two of our most-needed items: spaghetti and elbow macaroni.

Pasta doesn’t tend to get donated through our regular sources. The shelf life is so long that wholesalers and grocery stores don’t need to move it along often. Second Helpings uses about 1,100 pounds of pasta each week, so we go through it quickly!

Second Helpings relies on pasta drives to bring these key, non-perishable items to the Hunger Relief kitchen. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, most of the large pasta drives we’ve depended on in the past were cancelled, so the new partnership with WISH-TV 8 came at the perfect time.



One of the campaign’s sponsors, Anthem held a drive-through food collection at Second Helpings, collecting 340 lbs of pasta in 2 hours!



Hornet Park Community Center serves an average of 60 families every week with their drive-thru food pantry. During February’s winter storm, staff greeted the long line of cars with Valentine’s Day treats and nutritious food to take home.

Why pasta? It’s a key ingredient for many of the “healthy comfort food” dishes that Second Helpings prepares.

“Running out of pasta is a huge deal around here – we can’t just go to the store and buy a thousand pounds at a time,” explains Executive Chef Kathy Jones.

People participated in the Gr8 Pasta Push in numerous ways: businesses placed collection boxes in their lobbies and hosted their own matching challenges, families gave online, and others encouraged friends and neighbors to leave donations on their porches.

With support from individuals and companies across central Indiana, we collected more than 16,000 pounds of pasta. Donations were also accepted, and we exceeded the \$10,000 match opportunity generously donated by GEICO, which will further support Second Helpings’ Hunger Relief efforts. In total, the Gr8 Pasta Push supported more than 133,000 meals to help struggling households during the pandemic.

The partnership was a success for WISH-TV, too.

“We’re very proud of our inaugural partnership between WISH-TV 8 and Second Helpings,” said DuJuan McCoy, owner, president and CEO of Circle City Broadcasting (parent company to WISH-TV 8). “WISH-TV 8 is committed to supporting the community in which we serve. We are grateful to our viewers and central Indiana for supporting the Gr8 Pasta Push. We look forward to a successful and continued partnership with Second Helpings.”

The Gr8 Pasta Push will now be an annual event and will move to June to provide summer meals for our neighbors in need.

You can learn more and get involved with this effort at [secondhelpings.org/pasta](https://secondhelpings.org/pasta).

HUNGER RELIEF

# Hornet Park Community Center finds treasures at Second Helpings

As part of the Beech Grove city parks system, Hornet Park Community Center plans every program with fun in mind.

“If it’s not fun, we’re not doing it right and we need to change something,” smiles Facility Manager Angel McKenna.

That goes for their drive-thru food pantry, too. Not only does Hornet Park provide weekly food boxes for 60 families, they also include fun items like books and activity bags for kids.

“One of our goals with food distribution is to help remove the stigma of food insecurity by making it fun,” McKenna explains.

HUNGER RELIEF CONT.

The weekly distribution has become an event that families look forward to – not just to receive needed food, but to connect with their community, too.

What’s even more meaningful for the community center is that none of the food boxes they’ve distributed have come out of their taxpayer-funded budget.

**In the year they’ve been offering a drive-thru food pantry, Hornet Park has never bought any food. Everything they share with Beech Grove families comes from Second Helpings and our food donors.**

Hornet Park has been a partner agency of Second Helpings since January 2019 and has since received over 23,000 meals. But the most valuable part of this partnership for Hornet Park has been Second Helpings’ *redirect* program.

“Redirects” are scheduled times when partner agencies are invited to visit Second Helpings’ warehouse to look through our excess food donations – and distribute any of that available food back to those they serve. This program prevents additional food from going to waste.

“Redirects are everything – that’s the only reason we can offer the programs we do,” McKenna shares. “We have the most fun going to redirects. We always call it a ‘treasure hunt’ because there is gold in those boxes!”

McKenna and her team come to Second Helpings with an eye out for anything they can use for their programs, whether it be items to pack in a food box, supplies to be turned into a craft project in their afterschool program, or items they could pair together around a theme, like a “cold care package” they put together this winter with tea, microwavable bowls, vitamins, and cold medicine – all items they found at Second Helpings.

The variety and volume of food made available by Second Helpings has changed the way Hornet Park is now able to operate, McKenna says.

“There isn’t anything we do now that doesn’t involve food, and before, nothing involved food. Hornet Park has become the place we wanted it to be. We want it to feel like home here, and food does that every time.”

CULINARY JOB TRAINING

# Meet our newest Culinary Job Training graduates

The Culinary Job Training program looks a little different now, with a mixture of remote and socially-distanced, in-person learning, but we’re still working with students in the kitchen every day to train them for meaningful careers in the culinary industry. Since this program returned in August, we have graduated five classes and we’re excited to see what’s next for these graduates! For information about sponsoring a CJT class, please contact Senior Director of Philanthropy Katie Prine at (317) 632-2664, ext. 138.

CLASS 130

Chelsea Chatmon  
Damon Fain  
Shakeim Rogers  
Mercedes Wright

CLASS 131

Romian Garcia,  
Anup ‘AJ’ Lodaya  
Theresa Nelson

CLASS 132

Carmen Adams  
Steven Steele  
Timothy Stewart  
Kamille Word

CLASS 133

Cordney Thurman  
Eric Charleston  
James Brooks  
Kelly Ward

CLASS 134

Ashley Guilford  
Leif Litten  
Nadine Seals



Culinary Job Training Class 130 was the first class to go through our adapted model with both virtual and in-person components. Here, the students pose with our Chef Instructors on their graduation day.

Thank you to  
our recent class  
sponsors!

DAVID & EVA YOUNT



UMA AND SUKUMAR





Transforming Lives through the Power of Food

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[www.seconddhelpings.org](http://www.seconddhelpings.org)  
(317) 632-2664



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CORKS & FORKS 2021

## Live Virtual Experience & Online Auction

Second Helpings' annual spring event *Corks & Forks*, presented by Kroger, will be virtual this year. Mark your calendars and join Second Helpings on **Friday, April 23, 2021, 7-8 pm**, for a live virtual experience and online auction - and for the ninth year, there will be an appearance by Marc Mullins at WRTV, the event's media sponsor.

Visit [secondhelpings.org/corksandforks](http://secondhelpings.org/corksandforks) to learn more and register.



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