



For immediate release

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Meijer Donates Trucks to Two Local Food Banks

Retailer Provided 18 Semi-Tractors to Community Partners in Four States to Help Fight Hunger

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – While Meijer donates to thousands of charitable organizations throughout the year, helping fight hunger has been a primary focus of the supercenter chain for several years. In keeping with that commitment, Meijer donated two tractors to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan and one tractor to Forgotten Harvest.

This is the second year the retailer donated reconditioned tractors to local food banks and educational partners in the Midwest. This year's donation consisted of 18 reconditioned tractors valued at more than \$200,000, which were delivered earlier this month to community partners in four states.

“We are proud to be able to offer this level of assistance to these organizations that are doing the good work of addressing hunger in their communities,” said Rick Keyes, executive vice president of supply chain operations and manufacturing for the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer. “Meijer truly focuses on supporting the communities where our customers and team members work and live, and we are excited to help fight the problem.”

The 18 tractors had previously been part of the Meijer truck fleet and were recently replaced with ones that offered the latest technology in emissions control. All of the vehicles have been reconditioned and prepped for their next use, including new tires, maintenance inspections and new graphics specific to each donation recipient.

Seven food banks and two educational institutions in four states were selected to receive the tractors.

They include:

- Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank (Comstock Park, Michigan)
- Ferris State University (Big Rapids, Michigan)
- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (Flint, Michigan)

- Forgotten Harvest (Oak Park, Michigan)
- Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Detroit, Michigan)
- Lansing Community College (Lansing, Michigan)
- Food Finders Food Bank (Lafayette, Indiana)
- Northern Illinois Food Bank (Geneva, Illinois)
- West Ohio Food Bank (Lima, Ohio)

“As demand for emergency food continues to rise, Gleaners is responding by distributing more food than ever before through our partner network,” said W. DeWayne Wells, food bank president. “Additional vehicles in our fleet will boost our efforts significantly and help us reach more of our hungry neighbors, who are struggling to make ends meet. We are deeply grateful to Meijer for this generous donation.”

The tractor donation will also help Forgotten Harvest continue its mission to help the community.

“Due to the tremendous increase in need for food around the Metro Detroit area, this wonderful tractor donation will enable us to establish more mobile pantries in underserved areas where no emergency food provider network currently exists,” Chief Operating Officer Tom Cihonski said. “The tractor doubles the load that we can deliver to hungry people and helps us fulfill our mission to drive hunger from the community.”

The food banks and educational institutions were chosen because helping fight hunger has been a primary focus of Meijer for many years. The company annually donates millions of pounds of food to local food banks and pantries, and has generated more than \$2.3 million in donations to local food banks through its *Simply Give* program.

About Meijer: Meijer is a Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer that operates 197 supercenters and grocery stores throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. As a pioneer of the "one-stop shopping" concept, Meijer stores have evolved through the years to include expanded fresh produce and meat departments, as well as pharmacies, comprehensive electronics departments, garden centers and apparel offerings. Additional information on Meijer and the ability to shop for more can be found at www.meijer.com. Please follow Meijer on Twitter @twitter.com/Meijer or become a fan at www.facebook.com/Meijer.

Editorial Note: Please contact Meijer Community Relations Specialist Christina Fecher for a photo of the truck donation.

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