



THE GLEANER

Food for every table. Hope for every future.

Summer 2018



Robert Herrmann, 94, shops at the Rushville Mobile Pantry in May.

Asking for Help at 94: The New Face of Hunger

Nearly 5 million older adults face hunger in the United States every day. If that number surprises you, you likely aren't alone.

On a recent visit to a Mobile Pantry in Rushville, several seniors waited in line on a warm, sunny day. This Mobile Pantry serves about 150 families each month. More than half of those are senior citizens, some of whom are raising grandchildren. In one case, a great-grandchild was living with her grandmother until another family member could drive to Indiana to take her to live with their family in Illinois.

We asked some seniors in Rushville about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other issues related to food insecurity, health,

housing and transportation. One gentleman, in particular, stood out.

Robert Herrmann is a 94-year-old Rush County native who comes each month to the Mobile Pantry. As he gave hugs to neighbors, he proudly said that if he didn't show up one month, half the town would come looking for him.

Mr. Herrmann worked all his life in a variety of jobs: construction, farming, manufacturing, lawn care. He was unable to serve in the military due to a bad heart and laughing, said that when he tried to enlist, they told him he probably wouldn't live past 40. "Guess those military doctors were wrong about me!" he said.

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He relies on the Mobile Pantry because he isn't eligible for SNAP. "I make \$109 a month too much," he said. "Can you believe that? It's because I worked all my life and have a small pension." Like other seniors in line, Mr. Herrmann struggles with the cost of his medications and his Medicare supplemental insurance.

As the line started to move, Mr. Herrmann gave one more hug, smiled and started toward the registration table. "I really don't know what I would do without this pantry and the kindness of the community. People here look out for each other and this Gleaners truck is where I get my fruits and vegetables. Maybe that's why this old bad heart keeps ticking!"

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Robert Herrmann, 94

BRACKETS FOR GOOD MOBILE

Last March, Gleaners was selected to participate in the Indiana bracket of the Brackets for Good tournament. Brackets for Good - or BFG as they call it - is a fun platform for non-profits to build awareness and raise money, modeled after the March Madness basketball tournament bracket.

After advancing through the first two rounds, we found ourselves paired against a long-standing partner in Round 3: the Rush County Community Foundation. Last November, the Foundation gave Gleaners a \$5,000 grant to fund the purchase of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables for the Mobile Pantries that visit the county each month.

This seemed like a good opportunity for a win-win for Rush County. In Round 3, Gleaners designated all funds raised to benefit the Rush County Mobile Pantry program, resulting in more than \$3,600 in donations to benefit the county!

On May 7, we joined together with board members from the Rush County Community Foundation and Brackets for Good staff to host the BFG Mobile Pantry in Rushville. While Gleaners may have "lost" in Round 3, we all felt like winners as we joined together to feed the hungry.



Gleaners staff, Rush County Community Foundation board members and representatives from Brackets for Good joined together to volunteer at the