

August 2026



## ihn BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### Why I Support Indy Hunger Network

#### A Message From Cynthia Ridgeway, IHN Board of Directors

As Elanco's representative on Indy Hunger Network's board, I believe our presence in Indianapolis carries a profound responsibility to serve our fellow citizens. We have a fundamental duty to ensure that as our city prospers, no neighbor is left behind. This isn't just a logistical challenge to be solved; it is a human imperative. When we support the Indy Hunger Network, we aren't just filling plates—we are restoring the dignity, health, and hope that every family in our community deserves.

The latest Hunger Study serves as a powerful reminder that behind every statistic is a parent or a senior facing an impossible choice. This reality is at the very heart of the One Health Innovation District. We know that true innovation is hollow if it doesn't reach the people living right next door. By investing our resources in IHN, we are fulfilling a promise to Indianapolis: that our growth will be measured by our compassion. Together, we are building a city where progress and human wellness go hand-in-hand, ensuring a future via IHN's leadership and the leadership of their partners and donors, where every table is full.



**Cynthia Ridgeway,**

*IHN Board*

*Elanco Animal Health*

*Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Global Head  
of Litigation and Americas*

**Help further Indy Hunger Network's mission to ensure that anyone who is hungry can  
access the food they need by donating today.**

[Donate Today.](#)



## Partner Covenings and Events

### Food Pantry Coalition Meetings

IHN's quarterly Food Pantry Coalition Meetings bring together food pantry leaders from Indianapolis and surrounding counties for networking, peer-to-peer learning, and conversations around best practices. These information meetings help pantry leaders stay connected throughout the year, learn from one another, hear relevant updates from IHN, and share feedback about the needs they're seeing in their communities.

Our two September meetings will focus on **food sourcing**.

Representatives from Second Helpings, Gleaners Food Bank, and Midwest Food Bank will join us to talk about how food pantries can become partner agencies, what types of food may be available, what pantries can expect when working with their organizations, and answer questions from attendees.

Both September meetings will cover the same topic, so pantry leaders can attend whichever option works best for their schedule:

- Wednesday, September 16, 1:00-2:30pm @ the Indy Hunger Network Offices, 32 E 32nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46205
- Wednesday, September 23, 2:00-3:00pm @ Boulevard Place Food Pantry, 4202 Boulevard Pl, Indianapolis, IN 46208

If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please RSVP [here](#).

### 2027 Food Pantry Summit

Planning for the 2027 IHN Food Pantry Summit will begin in September. The Summit is currently scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2027, and will once again bring together food pantry leaders and community partners for a full day of learning, networking, and sharing resources and best practices. More information will be coming as planning gets under way.

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## Cooking Matters Partnerships

### Indy Parks and Pacers Foundation

Cooking Matters is partnering with Indy Parks to bring hands-on nutrition and cooking education to Indianapolis communities through 10 upcoming classes at Indy Parks locations that offer the Gleaners Drive and Dish program. These classes are made possible through funding from the Pacers Foundation. The partnership expands access to Cooking Matters' practical, budget-friendly approach to preparing healthy meals.

These classes are open to the public, free of charge. Class participants will have the opportunity to build practical skills and confidence around preparing nutritious meals while making the most of their food budget. Most recently on August 18th, a class was held at Watkins Park where participants learned how to make One-pan Mexican Quinoa.

Classes are being hosted at several Indy Parks locations, including Watkins Park, Washington Park, Krannert Park, Frederick Douglass Park, Municipal Gardens, and Thatcher Park. By bringing Cooking Matters directly into neighborhood parks, the partnership makes nutrition education more accessible to residents where they live, work and gather.

Two upcoming classes are currently scheduled:

- Friday, October 16, 12:00pm-1:00pm @ Krannert Park
- Friday, November 6, 11:00am-12:00pm @ Washington Park

Registration is available through the Indy Parks website. To find current Cooking Matters offerings, visit **[parks.indy.gov](https://parks.indy.gov)**, select **Programs & Scholarships**, click the blue **"View Current Program Offerings"** button, and search **"Cooking Matters."** You can also find the classes [here](#). Spots are first come, first serve and running out fast, so be sure to sign up now!

Through this partnership, Cooking Matters, Indy Parks, and the Pacers Foundation are working together to connect Indianapolis residents with the knowledge and resources they need to prepare healthy, affordable meals.



# ihn INTERN SPOTLIGHT

## A Summer of Learning

### A message from our Summer intern, Ariana Davis

This summer I was given the opportunity to complete an internship with Indy Hunger Network's FRSB Program. I am currently pursuing my Master's of Social Work at Indiana University, and found Indy Hunger Network to be a great space to learn about macro-level practices and interventions. This experience offered invaluable insight into the domain of food justice and the various mechanisms at work to address the need for food access in Indianapolis.

Working with the FRSB Program, I had the opportunity to engage with community members to listen to their stories and offer available resources when needs arose. Having recently moved to the city, this experience allowed me to establish relationships and become more connected with community members and the intricate web of organizations dedicated to supporting us all. Beyond this, I was also able to learn a great deal from the IHN team about advocacy and coalition building. I was able to develop my understanding of relevant legislative policies and the real impact they have on communities and organizations.

I am so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to work alongside so many wonderful individuals in and outside of the organization. I hope to carry the values and principles I have learned this summer in my future practice!



**Ariana Davis,**  
*FRSB Summer Intern*  
*IU Indianapolis*

## WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER

**Our mission is to address systemic hunger issues and eliminate disparities in the Greater Indianapolis hunger relief system through collaboration on programs, advocacy, and research.**

*Help further Indy Hunger Network's mission to ensure that anyone who is hungry can access the food they need by donating [HERE](#).*