

# NEWS RELEASE

From the Office of the Indiana Attorney General

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Attorney General: 3 Indianapolis law offices top food bank donors**

*Zoeller's March Against Hunger raised 50 tons of food in lawyer competition*

INDIANAPOLIS - A friendly competition between lawyers and law firms to raise donations for Indiana's regional food banks generated the monetary equivalent of more than 50 tons of food, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller announced today.

"For many Hoosiers, the recession and joblessness have cut them off from their primary income lifelines – leaving them scrambling even to buy the basic food essentials to feed their families. Many food banks have been running low so an infusion of food donations is essential," Zoeller said. "I am very proud of the fact that members of my profession have stepped up to help fill this need in their communities."

During the March Against Hunger drive that lasted from March 15 to 31, lawyers and law firms statewide competed to raise the largest amounts in donations, both monetarily and in quantities of nonperishable goods. Zoeller visited several food banks to raise public awareness of the need, and the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA) and its president Roderick H. Morgan helped notify lawyers and law offices of the March Against Hunger competition.

Today at Gleaners Food Bank in Indianapolis, Zoeller presented awards to the biggest-donating firms in each of three categories: for large firms of 25 lawyers or more, small firms of one to 24 lawyers, and law offices of public or nonprofit lawyers:

- Barnes & Thornburg LLP is the winner of the large firm division, generating \$10,492 in monetary contributions and 1,426 pounds in donations of canned goods and other food items.
- In the small firm division, the firm of Rubin & Levin in Indianapolis raised the most donations: \$1,045 and 10 pounds of food.
- In the public and nonprofit division, the Office of United States Trustee, Indianapolis/Region 10, raised the most donations: \$520 and 140 pounds of food.

Statewide, among the 31 law offices and law firms that competed in March Against Hunger, a total of 6,305 pounds of food was donated for the needy, along with another \$18,825 in monetary contributions. Using a conversion formula of each dollar being equal to 5 pounds of food, the drive raised the equivalent of 100,420 pounds or 50.2 tons of food for the regional food banks.

Donations from law offices were steered to the nearest regional food bank. Firms received bonus points in the competition if they delivered their donated items to their regional food bank directly rather than having them picked up, saving on transportation costs for the food banks.

As the umbrella organization for 10 regional food banks, the nonprofit group Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIsh) also assisted in March Against Hunger. A recent study by FIsh found that more than 694,500 people, including 295,857 children, receive emergency food assistance each year through the 10 regional food banks. On a weekly basis, an estimated 117,900 Hoosiers receive emergency food assistance each week from a food pantry, soup kitchen or other agency, the FIsh study found.

"We are very thankful for the continued support and generosity of Attorney General Zoeller and the Indiana legal community. Their help enables our 10 member food banks to distribute additional food around the state," said Emily Weikert Bryant, executive director of FIsh. "Last year our food banks distributed 42 million pounds of food, and we expect to exceed that this year as the need continues to increase. Every little bit helps."

Zoeller congratulated the three winning law offices and added that he intends to lead the March Against Hunger drive again in 2011. "Lawyers are known for being competitive, but in this instance their competition was harnessed for a good cause and it also elevated the public awareness of hunger in Indiana," the Attorney General said.

The ten regional food banks that serve parts of Indiana and are members of FIsh are:

- Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, Gary
- Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana Inc., Fort Wayne
- Food Finders Food Banks, Lafayette
- Gleaners Food Bank, Indianapolis
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Bloomington
- Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, Muncie
- Food Bank of Northern Indiana, South Bend
- Terre Haute Catholic Charities Food Bank, Terre Haute
- Tri-State Food Bank Inc., Evansville
- Dare to Care Food Bank, Louisville, Ky., which serves five southeastern Indiana counties.

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*NOTE: An audio sound bite of Attorney General Greg Zoeller commenting on the March Against Hunger food drive can be found at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/INAttorneyGeneral>*

*NOTE: The FIsh study, "Hunger In America 2010 Indiana State Report," can be downloaded at this link: <http://www.feedingindianahungry.org/press02022010.htm>*

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## **2010 March Against Hunger Participating Law Firms**

### **Large Firm:**

Bamberger, Foreman, Oswald and Hahn – Evansville: \$310 and 40 pounds of food

Barnes & Thornburg – Indianapolis: \$10,492 and 1,426 pounds

Bingham McHale – Indianapolis: \$1,185 and 94 pounds

Stuart & Branigin – Lafayette: 48 pounds

Taft Stettinius & Hollister – Indianapolis: \$50 and 580 pounds

Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders – Evansville: \$841

### **Small Firm and Solo Practitioner:**

Campbell Kyle Proffitt – Carmel: \$127 and 188 pounds

Church Church Hittle & Antrim - Fishers/Noblesville: \$220 and 140 pounds

Doninger Tuohy & Bailey – Indianapolis: \$150

Drewry Simmons Vornehm – Indianapolis: \$250 and 146 pounds

Fleschner, Stark, Tanoos & Newlin - Terre Haute: \$120

Harrison & Moberly – Indianapolis: \$110 and 70 pounds

Hollingsworth & Zivitz – Carmel: \$365 and 22 pounds

Jones Obenchain - South Bend: \$50 and 90 pounds

Knight, Hoppe, Kurnik & Knight – Schererville: \$100

Lewis and Wilkins – Indianapolis: \$400 and 60 pounds

Martz, Clymer & Lucas – Valparaiso: 100 pounds

Philip H. Siegel – Evansville: \$100 and 73 pounds

Price Waicukauski & Riley – Indianapolis: \$95 and 60 pounds

Roberge & Roberge – Indianapolis: \$120 and 105 pounds

Robert C. Beasley – Muncie: \$100

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Rubin & Levin – Indianapolis: \$1,045 and 10 pounds

Rudolph, Fine, Porter & Johnson – Evansville: \$620 and 10 pounds

Sweetin Bleeke Attorneys – Indianapolis: \$640 and 70 pounds

Wagner, Crawford & Gambill – Terre Haute: 216 pounds

Wilkinson, Goeller, Modesitt, Wilkinson & Drummy - Terre Haute: 2,557 pounds

Wright, Shagley & Lowery - Terre Haute: \$25

**Public/Non Profit:**

B. Lee Reberger - Clay County Prosecutor – Brazil: \$150

Citizens Energy Group, Legal Department – Indianapolis: \$190

Clarian Health Partners/CHRRG – Indianapolis: \$450 and 60 pounds

Department of Justice/Office of United States Trustee – Indianapolis/District 10: \$520 and 140 pounds

**TOTALS:**

**MONETARY DONATIONS:**

\$18,825 (using a conversion formula of each dollar being equal to 5 pounds of food: 94,125 pounds or slightly more than 47 tons)

**FOOD DONATIONS:**

6,305 pounds or 3.15 tons

**COMBINED EQUIVALENT:**

100,420 pounds or 50.2 tons

*NOTE: Law firms and law offices received additional bonus points toward the competition if they delivered their donations directly to their nearest regional food bank.*

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