Irving Cares

Newsletter

QUARTER 3, 2021 // SUMMER SQUEEZE

Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation

The 2021 Summer Squeeze Challenge kicked off on Monday, July 12. Your participation this year means more now than ever.



Summer is easily the busiest time of year at Irving Cares. As classrooms and cafeterias close, many children also lose access to the low-cost or free meals provided at school, they depend on throughout the school year. Traditionally, food pantry requests increase significantly during the summer with up to 1,000 families needing food assistance each month. This year, many Irving neighbors are struggling with additional burdens after 16 months of economic, academic, and social challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that anyone, at any time, in any circumstance, could need a little extra help putting food on the table.

The Summer Squeeze Challenge is a signature event held annually to help support the Irving Cares food pantry. The program challenges local organizations to raise the largest combined food & dollar donations in one of five categories. That's where you come in. Now, more than ever, we need your participation to help Irving Cares meet the increase in demand and ensure no one goes hungry.

We hope you will join Irving Cares in the 2021 Summer Squeeze Challenge by hosting a food drive today. This is a great way to bring friends, families, and coworkers together again to raise funds for a great cause. There are also easy options to run a 100% virtual food drive. While we always welcome drop offs of non-perishable food donations, food and cash donations can also be made online 24/7—through IrvingCares.org or via the **virtual food drive**. Be sure to remind online donors to note your organization, so every contribution counts towards your team's total through Friday, August 6, 2021!

Companies are encouraged to design their own dynamic strategy, but no need to panic—when they register, this year's participants will receive a planning kit, filled with resources and tools they can use to host a successful food drive. A certificate of thanks will be emailed to all teams that register to recognize their participation and contributions. Winners will be selected in each of the following categories: Business Level A (one to 50 employees), Business Level B (51 to 150 employees), Business Level C (151 or more employees), Faith-Based Organizations and Individuals/Families and will be honored in the next quarterly newsletter and on social media.



The winning team will also be awarded a trophy and added to the Summer Squeeze Wall of Fame at the Irving Cares office.

In addition to fostering friendly competition and staff spirit, the Summer Squeeze Challenge provides a fun way for participants to learn about the mission of Irving Cares and become involved in building healthy and safe communities.

To register your team or get answers to any questions, contact Irving Cares events coordinator, Terri Oliver at (972) 721-9181 or email toliver@irvingcares.org. So, what are you waiting for? Sign up today and join the other Irving companies participating this year. And don't forget to tag us with your progress using the hashtag #ICSummerSqueeze2021.