



For immediate release

Contact: Fumi Mitchell, 708-755-4357
fmitchell@respondnow.org

Christina Fecher, 616-735-7968
christina.fecher@meijer.com

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**Respond Now and Meijer Partner to Provide Hunger Relief in the Southlands Through
Retailer's *Simply Give* Food Pantry Donation Program**

Campaign set to run through Sept. 24

Chicago Heights, IL – Respond Now is proud to announce a partnership with Meijer this fall to provide much-needed hunger relief to local families through the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer's customer-driven food pantry donation program, *Simply Give*.

“By participating in the *Simply Give* program it will help keep our pantry shelves filled offering a wider variety from which our clients may choose their selections” stated Sue Perkins, Board President of Respond Now

Each Meijer *Simply Give* campaign replenishes the shelves of more than 200 food pantries in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Wisconsin. The program encourages customers to purchase \$10 *Simply Give* donation cards, which are then converted into Meijer food-only gift cards and given to a local food pantry in the store's community. These gift cards can be used to donate \$10 or more on behalf of the partner food pantry.

Respond Now will benefit from donation cards purchased at the Flossmoor Meijer store located at 3800 Vollmer Road in Flossmoor, IL now through Sept. 24.

“We encourage community members to help us fulfill our mission of helping feed the hungry in the Southland communities by purchasing a Meijer *Simply Give* food donation card during their next shopping trip,” said Fumi Mitchell, Director of Development at Respond Now.

For the fifth consecutive year, Meijer will contribute at least \$1 million to the 2016 *Simply Give* program.

The *Simply Give* program runs three times a year: Spring, Fall and Holiday. Since the program began in November 2008, nearly \$24 million has been generated for food pantries in the Midwest to distribute to our hungry neighbors.

“Today’s food pantries are struggling to keep up with the flood of requests they receive daily,” Meijer Spokeswoman Christina Fecher said. “The *Simply Give* program is a way for Meijer customers to partner with Meijer and support the food banks and pantries that provide food to the hungry families in the communities we serve. We certainly couldn’t do it without the support and commitment of our generous customers and team members, who stand beside us in this effort.”

About Respond Now: Respond Now exists to provide immediate relief for residents of the Chicago south suburbs who are in need while maintaining their dignity and affording respect. We do this by: Helping people through their temporary emergencies with financial assistance, providing food to families and individuals in need and providing sound referrals and counseling for other needed services. For additional information on Respond Now, please visit us at www.respondnow.org. Follow Respond Now on Twitter: [@twitter.com/respond_now_4](https://twitter.com/respond_now_4) or become a fan at www.facebook.com/RespondNow755HELP/#

About Meijer Philanthropy: Meijer is a family-owned retailer based in Grand Rapids, Mich. with a fundamental philosophy aimed at strengthening the communities it serves. Meijer proudly donates more than 7 percent of its net profit each year to charities throughout the Midwest. With hunger as a corporate philanthropic focus, Meijer partners with hundreds of food banks and pantries through its *Simply Give* and food rescue programs. Meijer also supports education, disaster relief, and health and wellness initiatives. For additional information on Meijer philanthropy, please visit www.meijercommunity.com. Follow Meijer on [Twitter @twitter.com/Meijer](https://twitter.com/Meijer) and [@twitter.com/MeijerPR](https://twitter.com/MeijerPR) or become a fan at www.facebook.com/meijer.

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