



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Feb. 12, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

For further information, contact:

Ericka McCauley

Marketing Director

Northwest and North Central Regions

emccauley3@ivytech.edu

O: 219-981-4940

C: 713-859-0057

Ivy Tech Volunteers Help Fight Hunger

GARY — About 160 Ivy Tech Community College students, staff and faculty across four campuses are teaming up with the national organization Feeding Children Everywhere to help fight the problem of childhood hunger.

This year, the annual Days of Service project, sponsored by Ivy Tech's Office of Student Life, is partnering with the anti-hunger group to assemble healthy meals for children in local communities. Last year's Days of Service activities included helping at the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and cleaning up Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City.

Joe Thomas, assistant director of student life at Ivy Tech, said volunteers will work three one-hour shifts at each campus, with each location packing 5,000 meals.

"One of our functions is service engagement," Thomas said, referring to his office. "We're building leaders, giving them opportunities to serve others. That's part of leadership."

Helpers will be packing meals on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at the Gary campus, 1440 E. 35th Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon and at the East Chicago campus, 410 E. Columbus Dr., from 2 to 5 p.m. They also will be working on Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Valparaiso campus, 3100 Ivy Tech Dr., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the Michigan City campus, 3714 Franklin St., from 3 to 6 p.m.

"It's always important to give back," volunteer Chris Cartagena, Ivy Tech student and coordinator of the college's Minority Male Initiative, said.

Founded in Florida in 2010, Feeding Children Everywhere has distributed 38 million meals across 37 countries, including the U.S.

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Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other

colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.