



## Summer Squeeze ~ March 1<sup>st</sup> - April 30th

Holiday food drives are over - Christmas trees taken down.

Kids are back in school. November and December see the most food donations to Irving Cares, but June, July and August are actually the busiest months in the food pantry with the fewest food donations?

Summer is coming, which brings higher grocery bills for low-income families with children home from school. While many school-age children participate in Irving ISD's Summer Meals Program, food pantry requests at Irving Cares during June, July, and August increase exponentially and food donations typically are very slim during summer months. A food pantry order for a week's worth of meals averages 85 pounds of USDA MyPlate nutritionally-balanced food.

### You can make a difference!

Host a food drive to benefit Irving Cares during March or April and win recognition for your efforts...and bragging rights for a year! Certificates of award will be given for the largest food/dollar donations during the Summer Squeeze Challenge:

- Individual
- Organization (e.g. subdivision, faith group, civic club, etc.)
- Business
- School

Awards will be given in each category for highest percentage increase of food/dollar donation over last year's donation during the Summer Squeeze Challenge.

Recruit your team now -- co-workers, friends, neighbors and family -- for an award winning food drive!

To arrange pick up of your Summer Squeeze food drive, please contact Kyle Taylor, Coordinator of Volunteers, at [ktaylor@irvingcares.org](mailto:ktaylor@irvingcares.org).

### Your team gets credit for every pound of food AND every dollar donated!

Why cash? Cash donations are important. Cash allows Irving Cares to purchase food items not donated, such as milk and eggs. Irving Cares can often procure items for a price lower than retail. Your cash donation will help ensure Irving Cares has sufficient inventory of nutritionally-balanced food for Irving families and their children this summer.

Questions? Contact Heather Newell, Development Director, [hnewell@irvingcares.org](mailto:hnewell@irvingcares.org).

