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81st Marion County Fair Gives Back to the Community

INDIANAPOLIS-The Marion County Fair is looking to do their part to make the world a better place during 81st annual traditional summer event. Indianapolis Animal Care and Control will be collecting pet-related items on Monday, July 25 and Gleaners Food Bank will be collecting non-perishable food item on Tuesday, July 26 and Wednesday, July 27. All donors receive \$1 off admission as guests enter the fairgrounds

IACC is a facility located in Indianapolis that encourages the adoptions of pets, stimulates responsible pet ownership and works to enhance the health and safety of the local community. Last year the IACC cared for approximately 17,750 homeless, surrendered, abused, neglected and abandoned animals.

The many services they perform for the city include: issuing citations to people in violation of animal ordinances; conducting inspections for the licensing of facilities that sell, groom, and kennel animals; investigate cruelty, neglect, and animal-fighting cases and respond to complaints related to animals and animal welfare; rescue animals in distress or danger on an emergency basis.

Gleaners Food Bank's goal is simple: to end hunger by engaging individuals and communities to provide food for people in need. They collect, store and distribute food and other grocery products to different agencies who serve the public directly. Among those agencies are food pantries, soup kitchens, halfway homes and emergency shelters. The food bank is where millions of pounds of food and other products are stored before they are sent out into the community. They also reach out to the public directly to collect food for those in need.

The Marion County Fair is also concerned with the well-being of its own spectators, in addition to neglected animals and the homeless in the community. Misting fans and cooling fans have been strategically placed throughout the fairgrounds to help battle the heat during the dog days of summer. Water is available at all the concession stands, as well as other beverages and a variety of delicious fair food.

Fair admission is \$5 per person with children ages five and under getting in free. There is plenty of free, convenient parking available as well. For more information on the different events happening at the Marion County Fair, please visit MarionCountyFair.org

Marion County Fair 2011 sponsors are Citizens Energy Group, Gentle Dentist, Marion County Farm Bureau, PNC Bank, DreamItDoItIndiana.com, Central Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, JD Byrider, Smoke Free Indy, Advantage Health Solutions, Indiana Autobody Association Drew Amusements, Mikes Express Carwash, RadioNOW, Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, Meijer, Radio Disney and Circle City Pyrotechnics.

The Marion County Fair was established in 1930 as a street fair in New Bethel (now known as Wanamaker). Following several moves in the Wanamaker area, the fair's home was relocated to 123 acres at 7300 East Troy Avenue (corner of Troy Avenue and Fisher Road, near Five Points). There are presently 17 permanent buildings on the grounds. The event is owned and operated by the Marion County Fair Agricultural and 4-H Club Fair Association, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation. It is governed by a 14-member board of directors.