

October 13, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**PROCLAIM NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2026 AS KERN COUNTY
CARES CANNED FOOD DRIVE MONTHS
(Fiscal Impact: None)**

The Golden Empire Gleaners has requested the support of Kern County employees in collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations to help provide food to our community's most vulnerable residents. All donations will be provided directly to the Golden Empire Gleaners to support its programs throughout Kern County.

This effort is especially important as Kern County continues to face significant food insecurity. More than 1 in 4 children in Kern County live below the poverty line. For more than 40 years, the Golden Empire Gleaners has provided food assistance to more than 12,000 people each month. The generosity of County employees helps sustain these efforts and provide much-needed food assistance to Kern County families.

The 2026 Kern County Cares Canned Food Drive goal is to collect 150,000 pounds of food through donations from County employees and participating departments. Year after year, County employees across all departments come together to support this important effort. Departments organize creative fundraisers, bake sales, internal competitions, and other activities, while employees generously donate thousands of pounds of food to help reach the Countywide goal. Their enthusiasm, generosity, and commitment to helping families in our community are a true reflection of the spirit of Kern County.

Employees are encouraged to contribute non-perishable food items or monetary donations, both of which are essential to supporting the Gleaners' mission. This annual effort provides an opportunity for County employees to come together and make a meaningful difference in the fight against hunger.

The 2026 Kern County Cares Canned Food Drive will run from Monday, November 2, through Thursday, December 31. Donations will be collected and delivered to the Gleaners on January 11–12, 2027. In addition, a benefit golf tournament coordinated by Doug Landon will be held on December 31 at Kern River Golf Course in support of the food drive.

All County departments are encouraged to begin their food drive activities now. The Golden Empire Gleaners will provide credit for contributions received throughout the entire year, January through December 2026.

Therefore, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that your Board proclaim November and December 2026 as Kern County Cares Canned Food Drive months in Kern County and make presentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lito Morillo". The signature is stylized with a large, cursive "L" and "M".

Lito Morillo
Director

cc: CAO