

**For Immediate Release**

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**Gleaners Community Food Bank Southeastern of Michigan  
Announces New President**  
*Gerald F. Brisson Assumes Leadership Immediately*

(January 7, 2014 – Detroit, MI) ... Gerald F. Brisson was appointed President of Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Gleaners) today, succeeding Walter Young who has been interim president since November 2013. Young will remain the chair of Gleaners board.

Brisson has 20 years of senior management experience with nonprofit organizations, including 15 years of senior leadership in hunger relief. He has served the last eight years at Gleaners, most recently as Senior Vice President of Advancement. In that role, Brisson led Gleaners' fund raising, food drives, volunteer recruitment and utilization, media relations and marketing. During that time he elevated Gleaners to being in the top 10% of food banks in fund raising nationally as well as being recognized locally and nationally for marketing success.

As President, Brisson will report directly to the Board and be responsible for all food bank operations, programs and functions.

"Our transition committee took several months to seek, interview, and evaluate candidates both inside and external to the organization," said Catherine Schmitt, Gleaners board member and chair of the committee. "We are excited to name Mr. Brisson as our choice for the person most ready and able to lead Gleaners through these important and challenging times."

"It is an honor for me to be selected to lead Gleaners," said Brisson. "Having worked with this terrific board and leadership team for the last eight years, I am confident in our ability to continue to feed hungry people and nourish our community in southeast Michigan."

Brisson holds both a B.A. and Master of Arts in Organizational Management, is a graduate of Leadership Detroit, and is involved in several other local school, civic and religious volunteer efforts in Ferndale, Michigan where he has lived for 20 years. He is married and has four children.

"Mr. Brisson has the passion, experience, and business sense that we think are critical to the success of the food bank," said Walter Young. "The board of directors is looking forward to working with him to bring Gleaners to the next level of success."

**About Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan**

For more than 36 years, Gleaners Community Food Bank has been "feeding hungry people and nourishing our communities." Last year, Gleaners distributed more than 41 million pounds of emergency food to over 550 partner schools, soup kitchens, shelters and pantries in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Monroe counties. Of every dollar donated, Gleaners uses 94 cents for food and food programs. **One dollar provides three meals for a hungry neighbor.** Learn more at [www.gcfb.org](http://www.gcfb.org).

**Media Only: For further information or to arrange an interview with Gerry Brisson, please contact Marcy Hayes at C&B Scene – 248.336.8360 or via email: [scene@candbscene.com](mailto:scene@candbscene.com).**