



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Jamal A. Simington - Chief of Police
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For Immediate Release: November 17, 2025

Bloomington Community Helps “Pack the Cruiser” With More Than 4,000 Pounds of Food for Local Families

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department is pleased to announce the successful completion of its second “Pack the Cruiser” food drive of 2025, held on Saturday, November 15, in partnership with Kroger and Midwest Food Bank.

Our community showed up once again when there was a need. We were able to collect a combined 4,018 pounds of food between the two participating Kroger locations, at 1502 North Main Street and 2507 East Oakland Avenue. Donors contributed a wide range of high-demand food items, which will be distributed to the Salvation Army of Bloomington and Midwest Food Bank to support families experiencing food insecurity throughout McLean County.

Bloomington police officers, alongside volunteers from Midwest Food Bank and local students, staffed the two collection sites throughout the event. The local students joined us from the Illinois State University (ISU) Black Student Union (BSU), ISU Black Entertainment Experience (BEE), and Bloomington Career Academy (BCA) Criminal Justice program. All volunteers were a tremendous help, assisting with handing out fliers and loading donations into the delivery vehicles provided by Midwest Food Bank.

Chief Jamal Simington expressed gratitude for the community’s continued support:

“In keeping with the BPD Mission, we will work diligently with our community to enhance livability in our city. The dedication of our officers and their families who volunteered on their off-time, along with the additional public support from the ISU BSU and BEE, future public safety workers who attend the BCA Criminal Justice program, Midwest Food Bank volunteers, and Kroger helped make this event a success and allowed us to be a positive light in our community. Job very well done by everyone, and I am extremely happy for the help of everyone who participated and donated.”

The department extends a special thank you to Kroger for hosting the collection stations and for their continued partnership in addressing community needs. BPD also recognizes and appreciates the support of our local media partners, whose efforts were invaluable in spreading the word prior to the event and encouraging participation across the community.

The Bloomington Police Department remains committed to supporting local families and looks forward to future events. For those unable to participate, we encourage you to visit the [Midwest Food Bank website](#) or [Salvation Army website](#) to explore volunteer opportunities and other ways to give back.

Media Contact:

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Photographs with descriptions from the Fall 2025 "Pack the Cruiser" event are included below and have been cleared for use by media outlets when sharing this release.

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPD TIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.



Figure 1 - A Kroger manager stands by donated items in Midwest Food Bank truck.



Figure 2 - Student Volunteers helping Assistant Chief Aaron Veerman at "Pack the Cruiser" on East Oakland Avenue.



Figure 3 - Assistant Chief Aaron Veerman and a young volunteer with donated items after they were loaded into the Midwest Food Bank truck.

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Figure 4 - Student volunteers from the ISU BSU and BEE helping Sergeant Kiel Nowers at "Pack the Cruiser" on North Main Street



Figure 5 - Student Volunteers from the BCA helping Officer Molly Monahan at "Pack the Cruiser" on North Main Street.



Figure 6 - Student volunteers stand with Sergeant Kiel Nowers and Illinois State Representative Sharon Chung.



Figure 7 - Donations from the East Oakland Kroger loaded into the Midwest Food Bank truck.

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