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## **POTENTIAL SCAM ARTISTS TARGETING PUBLIC EVENTS**

**Pittsburgh, PA (September 6, 2023)** Pittsburgh police are investigating potential fraud, after several people allegedly posed as Food Bank representatives and solicited donations at Rib Fest this weekend. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (the Food Bank) is actively working with police in this investigation.

The Food Bank has received various reports of scam artists taking advantage of the public outside of large events at Acrisure Stadium, PNC Park and PPG Paints Arena. Others have reported scammers posing as Food Bank staff in the strip district and outside of events in the cultural district.

**Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank NEVER solicits cash donations in public with the exception of at Santa's House during People's Gas Holiday Market.**

"Thousands of our neighbors rely on the Food Bank and our partners for food assistance, and our work is only possible with the generous support of the community. We want to be sure every dollar donated is going to feed our neighbors, not being stolen by bad actors," said Chief Development Officer Charla-Irwin Buncher.

The Food Bank is asking the public to report any suspicious fundraisers to the Police and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

This suspected fraud comes at a time where the Food Bank is in need of legitimate donations to meet the heightened need in the community.

The Food Bank encourages those who want to make a donation or want to host a legitimate fundraiser to visit [www.PittsburghFoodBank.org](http://www.PittsburghFoodBank.org) or call 412-460-3663.

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### **About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes food for more than 42 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 1,000 agencies, partners and programs.