

FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for volunteering to conduct a food drive on behalf of the Interfaith Food Pantry Network. In 2024, we distributed more than 2.3 million pounds of food equal to more than 2.1 million meals. We would not be able to continue to meet this need without the help of volunteers like you.

Getting started is as easy
as 1, 2, 3!

PLAN

Select the dates and location. We recommend that you run a drive for a least 2 weeks.

PREPARE

Get your collection bin(s) ready and make posters and fliers to get the word out.

COLLECT

Time to start collecting and put your plan into action.

Important Information

1. Make sure you are sharing IFPN's most needed items when you publicize your drive. <http://mcifp.org/donate/donate-food>
Note: IFPN cannot accept unlabeled or dented cans, open packaging, homemade foods or expired products.
2. Contact IFPN to set up a specific day and time when you will drop off the food and any monetary donations you received. Be prepared to provide a rough estimate of the amount of food that will be delivered. Email Kiley at kpowell@mcifp.org or call 973-538-8049 x236 to schedule.
3. Donors can text 'Hunger' to 243725 to donate with a credit card.
4. Use our IFPN Virtual Food Drive <https://bit.ly/43u30vG> to collect funds that will help purchase our most needed items.

Food Drive Themes

Creative Food Drive Ideas for IFPN Make Giving Fun, Easy & Impactful

Themed Drives

Chili Cook-Off Challenge: Collect ingredients for chili kits.

“Soup-er” Bowl Sunday: Gather cans of hearty soups before the big game.

Thirsty Thursday: Donate 100% fruit juice.

Warm-Up Wednesday: Focus on hot meals like soup or oatmeal.

Events with a Purpose

Pizza Party with a Twist: Admission = one food item or a cash donation.

Potluck for a Cause: Guests bring a dish and a pantry item.

Brown Bag It Day: Encourage coworkers to donate what they would’ve spent on lunch.

Gift-Inspired Giving

Celebrate by Giving: Ask for non-perishable items in lieu of birthday or holiday gifts.

Fill-a-Bag Drive: Distribute reusable bags for participants to return filled with food.

Workplace + Community

Break Room Bins: Place donation jars and boxes in high-traffic areas.

Copy Room Collection: Turn common spaces into giving hubs.

Event-Based Drives: Collect items at sports games, races, markets, and concerts.

Fun Collection Containers

Stuff the SUV: Fill a vehicle with food.

Baby Item Playpen: Use playpens to gather diapers, formula, and baby food.

Classroom Challenge: Compete to collect the most items—winning class gets a treat!

Summer Hunger Drive

“Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation”: Focus on breakfast and lunch items for children who rely on school meals.



MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

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FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Fruit canned in its own juice or with "no sugar added" or vegetables with low sodium or "no salt added".

Canned Fruit
100% Juice 32 oz.
Canned Vegetables
Spaghetti / Tomato Sauce,
Tomato Products (crushed, whole, diced, paste, puree)
Fresh Produce from your garden (uncooked)

DAIRY

Donate shelf-stable low-fat (1%) or non-fat dairy products
Parmalat (shelf stable 32 oz. size)
Dry Milk (1-qt. package)
Evaporated Milk
Calcium-fortified Milk alternatives such as soy, rice or almond milks

PROTEIN

Look for "no salt added", "low-sodium" and "canned in water"
Canned Beans (Pork and Beans, Pinto, Red, White, not green beans)
Dried Beans
Tuna Fish, Salmon and other canned fish
Peanut Butter, 18 oz.
Canned Meats and Meals (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, hash, stew canned chicken)

GRAINS

Cereal – low sugar, high fiber
Oatmeal
Pasta/ Whole wheat Pasta
Rice /Brown Rice – 1 or 2 lb. sizes
Donate whole grains as often as you can

SIDE DISHES

Mac 'n Cheese
Instant Potatoes
Stuffing
Rice-A-Roni
Hamburger Helper

SOUPS

Hearty, Low-Sodium, Regular

BABY ITEMS

Enfamil Infant Formula (NOT Newborn)
Baby Food – Stage 1 Fruits and Stage 3 Vegetables & Meats
Diapers 5 & 6
Pull Ups 4T & 5T
Baby Wipes

SPECIALTY ITEMS

Gluten Free Products
Boost or Ensure, regular
Boost Glucose Control or Glucerna
Adult Depends (no tabs)
Tea (100 count boxes)
Resealable sandwich bags and quart sized Plastic Bags

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IFP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Tax-exempt# 22-3618468.