

Thanks for hosting a food drive!

FOODLINK will take care of getting you food collection barrels and picking up the donated product; your job is to promote the food drive and make it as easy as possible for people to donate. Here is a little bit of information to help you explain where the food goes, and the best ways to give.



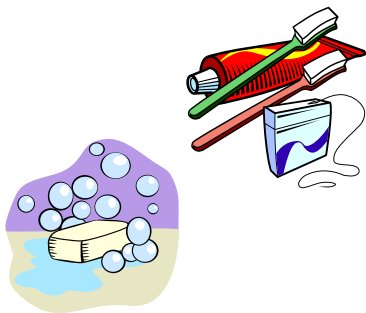
FOODLINK serves over 550 programs throughout a 10-county area. These programs include emergency shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries, day care providers, and group homes. The food you donate is distributed throughout all 10 counties, and the lives you touch number in the thousands.

The list of foods that we need the most may not make the most sense to some people - we omit some obvious foods, like flour and soups, and emphasize specific foods that aren't necessarily staples. This is because we get donated product from manufacturers, and need to fill in the gaps with food drives. Right now, we're getting plenty of soups and flour, but canned meats and 100% juices are in short supply and high demand. You help us by enabling us to offer a wider range of much needed foods.



The food we collect must be non-perishable and packaged in ways that prevent damaged product. This means that glass jars are not a good idea. Most products also come in plastic containers - they're just not as obvious. Spaghetti sauce is a good example; the vast majority of spaghetti sauce comes in glass containers, but if you look around (generally at the bottom shelf), you'll find plastic jars of sauce. Think of it as a "Where's Waldo" type of activity.

Many of the foods we need are higher in price - there's a reason for this. These are the foods that our consumers can't afford to buy for themselves, but need for the health of their families. They can go out and buy lots of Macaroni & Cheese and Ramen Noodles, but these are not necessarily the best foods for growing children or seniors.



You also might want to do "theme food drives" - collect all of one item, or narrow it down to specific types of foods. If you work in an office, assign different departments different collection items. Or do only holiday foods. Another option is to do a food drive for specifically non-food items. This can make it easier for people to shop. Schools may want to do 'Kids for Kids' food drives. Businesses can also donate frozen turkeys; the pickup needs to be coordinated carefully, but we have a need for turkeys during the holidays. (See enclosed "Theme Food Drive Suggestions")

You might want to offer people the option of writing a check - Many people would like to donate, but find it difficult to find the time to go out and shop. We use funds raised to purchase foods we are in short supply of.

