

Hosting a Successful Food Drive

Tips for Running a Smooth Food Drive:

- ❑ Designate a **Chair/Spokesperson** for the drive.
- ❑ Have the Chair make **regular announcements** and other forms of communication to the target audience.
- ❑ Have a clear **starting and ending point** for the drive.
- ❑ Hand out the **“Most Wanted” items** list to as many people as possible at the drive’s start. Post it as a reminder in a visible place (e.g. weekly bulletin, employee information board). Lakeview Pantry can provide the list in electronic format which you could adapt with a more personal organizational look/message.
- ❑ Have multiple, well-marked **collection bins** (Lakeview Pantry can provide). If you provide your own make sure they are relatively small so that they can be easily transported when they are full.
- ❑ Remind donors that we can only accept **non-perishable items**. We also cannot accept opened packages or items that have passed their expiration date.

Think Fun! Making Your Food Drive Unique:

- ❑ Set up a **contest** between different groups. Lakeview Pantry can help you determine the amount, weight or value of each group’s donations.
- ❑ Have a **theme** for a drive and collect only one item. For example, some groups only collect peanut butter. You adopt a slogan such as “100 Jars of Peanut Butter Goes a Long Way!”
- ❑ Set a **financial or poundage goal**. Lakeview Pantry can assist with tallying your collection in terms of total items or pounds collected, or value of donated products.
- ❑ Host a **hunger banquet** to kick off your food drive. Have a potluck or acquire donated food, but divide your guests into groups according to the distribution of the world’s food resources. Most of your guests will only eat rice and beans but a select few will be able to eat whatever they want. Lakeview Pantry can give you further details on hosting a hunger banquet or provide a guest speaker for your event.
- ❑ Have a canned goods **sculpture contest**. Award prizes for the best sculpture or the sculpture that would provide the most nutritious meal. Leave sculptures on display for the remainder of the food drive.



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