

FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for volunteering to conduct a food drive on behalf of the Interfaith Food Pantry Network. In 2025, we distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of food equal to more than 2 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 at 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. When you publicize your drive, make sure you are sharing IFPN's most needed items (found online at mcifp.org/support-our-pantry/donate-food/ and in this packet). **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 Carol at cstavraka@mcifp.org or call 973-538-8049 x236 to schedule.**
3. Use our IFPN Virtual Food Drive <https://bit.ly/43u30vG> or scan the QR code to collect funds that will help purchase our most needed items.



4. Text 'hunger' to 26989 or scan the QR Code donate with a credit card.



Creative Food Drive and Fundraising Ideas to 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: Collect 100% fruit juice boxes or bottles.



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.



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.



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!



Virtual Food Drive

- Create a personalized online fundraising page and let supporters donate from anywhere. Every \$20 = 17 meals for your Morris County neighbors.
- Team Fundraising Challenge: Departments, classrooms, neighborhoods, or friends compete to see who can raise the most.



Summer Hunger Drive

- “Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation”: Focus on breakfast and lunch items for children who miss out on their free school meals during summer break.
- Empathy Through Experience: Take the SNAP Challenge and see what it's like to stretch just \$30 for three days of meals. Learn more at onecau.se/_m53gk1



MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

IFPN cannot accept unlabeled or dented cans, open packaging, homemade foods or expired products.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

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

- 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 milk

PROTEIN

Look for "no salt added", "low-sodium" and "canned in water"

- Canned Beans (i.e. pork and beans, pinto, red, white, chickpeas)
- Tuna Fish, Salmon and other canned fish
- Peanut Butter, 18 oz.
- Canned Meats and Meals (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, hash, stew, canned chicken, etc.)

GRAINS

Donate whole grains as often as you can

- Cereal – low sugar, high fiber
- Oatmeal
- Pasta/ Whole Wheat Pasta
- Rice /Brown Rice – 1 or 2 lb. sizes

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 Sizes 5 & 6
- Pull Ups Sizes 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