



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Organize a Food Drive

Thank you for your interest in organizing a food drive to provide nutritious groceries to people in crisis in our community.

STEPS

1. Determine participation level:

Individual, team or multi-team event

•Volunteering is more fun in groups and a little competition between teams makes the event exciting and builds camaraderie! See next page for more details.

•Consider the following sources for teams: Family, Club, Workplace, Friends, Neighborhood, School, Scout Troop, Sports Team, Youth Group, Congregation, etc.

2. Pick a theme for your drive and give it a name

•At right are some suggestions for food drive themes. Feel free to be creative and create your own theme.

•Monetary donations are appreciated and allow us to purchase foods that cannot be collected in food drives.

•You can also find our priority needs list at http://loavesandfishes.org/docs/Priority_Needs_List.pdf

3. Determine logistics

•Start and end dates

•Central location for donation drop-off

•Transportation of goods to Loaves & Fishes

4. Promote your food drive

•Promote your drive through social media, websites, posters, fliers, work and community bulletins, and word of mouth.

5. Start collecting, have fun, and contact us when you're ready to drop off what you collected!

•Call us at 704-523-4333 or send an email to valerie@loavesandfishes.org.

6. Be sure to send us pictures of your food drive. We'd love to post them on our website & Facebook!

Theme Ideas	Products
Breakfast of Champions	Hot & Cold Cereals, 100% Fruit Juice, canned fruit
Have a Healthy Heart	Canned chicken breast, fruit and vegetables
Moo-la	Raise cash to purchase dairy products like cheese and yogurt
Meat Hunger Head On	Canned meat drive - canned tuna, chicken, and ham
Hot Summer & Cool Cash!	Raise cash by holding garage sales, car washes, etc.
Giving Thanks	Raise money for Holiday Meals
Ho, Ho, Ho Holiday Hams	Canned ham drive (1-5 lb. cans)
Baby Shower	Baby food and diapers
Italian Night	Pasta, canned ravioli, canned spaghetti & meatballs, spaghetti sauce
New Idea?	Please share it with us!

Make It a Contest

Multi-team competitions can both increase results as well as promote team building, camaraderie and a sense of community. Plus, it's fun!

1. Determine the number of teams and select 1-2 captains for each team.
2. Establish and assign people to teams.
 - Make it fun - use food groups, vitamin names, other grocery-related categories for team names.
 - Divide team members along department lines, classrooms or alphabetically.
3. Prepare collection area by providing containers such as copy paper boxes for each team to place donations. Remember that food can get heavy, so be careful about using large containers that are difficult to move when filled.
 - Include a secure box for cash/check donations.
 - If using one cash box for all teams. Remind teams to label their donations with team name.
4. Label each box with the team name and captain's names, if desired.
5. Announce the drive throughout the company, organization or neighborhood.
6. Throughout the drive, consider displaying a progress chart to encourage and motivate giving.
7. Reward the winning team or even all participants with a pizza dinner or other reward.










Kids can help, too!

Scout troops, school classes, and families can have fun with some great year-round projects:

1. Collect and fold used, clean paper and plastic grocery bags for pantries.
2. Sponsor bake sales or "No-Bake" sales where would-be donors have the option of sending in a donation instead of baking goods.
3. Ask birthday party guests to bring a canned good to your party.
4. Setup a lemonade stand with proceeds to come to Loaves & Fishes.

Loaves & Fishes at a Glance!

-  Loaves & Fishes provides a week's worth of nutritious groceries at no cost to people within our community facing economic hardships.
-  Loaves & Fishes has a network of 19 food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County.
-  Loaves & Fishes bagging list was developed by a registered dietician.
-  People are referred to Loaves & Fishes by human service agencies, clergy, medical providers and school counselors who see first hand those who struggle in our community.
-  A crisis situation such as a medical emergency, job loss, reduced hours, or even a major car repair can cause a client to have to make a decision between paying rent or buying food.
-  Ten paid staff and over 2,000 volunteers work together to fulfill the Loaves & Fishes' mission.
-  Last year Loaves & Fishes provided nutritious groceries to 126,803 people.

We're holding a **FOOD DRIVE**

for

Loaves & Fishes.

Please place your
donations here.



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