

FOOD DRIVE 101

Hosting a Successful Food Drive

Tips for Hosting a Successful Food Drive

1. **Select specific dates and locations.** Determine what time frame would be most effective in maximizing participation: a day, a week, or a month. Then decide where your event will take place—school-wide, a pep rally, a football game or other event?
2. **Organize!** A successful food drive often depends on those who organize it, so be sure to enlist the help of people who are dedicated, enthusiastic and good at motivating others.
3. **Set a goal.** Reaching for a target can help build momentum. Remember fifteen pounds of food can feed a family of four for one day.
4. **Promote your food drive.** Promote your event early and often. Display posters in highly visible locations. Send out e-mails, text messages and voice mails. Include reminders in newsletters or on your website.
5. **Make it easy to donate.** Put collection boxes and contribution canisters in high-traffic, easily accessible locations. If your facility is large, consider having more than one drop-off point.
6. **Pack up your donations.** If you do not use Food Bank collection boxes, pack your donated food into sturdy boxes that aren't too heavy and securely tape the bottoms. If the Food Bank is picking up the donated food, please gather it into one location that is accessible by a dolly.
7. **Celebrate your success!** Share the results with everyone. Send out thank you notes, throw a party and recognize those who contributed. At the end of the Erase Hunger Food Drive, we will contact you with the number of pounds collected and how many meals it provided to our community. Top performing schools will be eligible for prizes, such as a visit from the Food Bank Food Truck, a visit from a mascot, school supplies and more!

Ideas for Collecting Food

Fun & Games

- **Host a Trivia Event.** Gather classmates for a trivia event, and be sure to include statistics on hunger in Oklahoma. Ask participants to donate a canned food item to participate.
- **Hold a Half-Time for Hunger.** Organize a food drive oriented activity, such as a timed can-stacking event or other game with non-perishable goods.
- **Can-struction.** Collect food and build a can-structure. Create teams and let students vote on their favorite design.
- **Show Off.** Host a student-organized art, fashion or talent show and charge canned food at the door.

Challenge

- **Classroom Contest.** Hold a friendly contest between classrooms or grades to see who can collect the most food items.
- **Match It.** Encourage faculty and staff to match student donations, can for can.

Questions? Contact Tara Harris, tharris@cfbeo.org or (918) 936-4511.