Hosting food drives at your school

Occasionally North Helpline will reach out directly to schools in our service area to request a food drive if our food supply is especially low. However, more often than not a student or someone affiliated with the school will take the steps needed to make the food/hygiene/Baby Cupboard drive happen.

PLANNING AHEAD:

At the earliest time possible, notify North Helpline of your food, hygiene, or Baby Cupboard drive by emailing miranda@northhelpline.org, or calling 206 367 3477. Keep us in the know!

Review and share our “most needed items” list with your school. It changes frequently and tells you exactly what the Food Bank and our visitors are in need of right now.

Specify a start and end date and/or time for your food drive. Most food drives at schools run at least one week to give people time to bring in their donations.

Set goals for your food drive. No donation is too small, or too big! Decide if you will accept only non-perishable food, monetary donations, or both.

Create a collection system. If you would like to use North Helpline’s donation barrels or boxes*, notify us and arrange a time to pick them up. Often, the best way to transport food donations once they are collected is to use small to medium-sized boxes that are easy to lift.

*What’s the difference between a barrel and a box? Our donation barrels are 32 gallon trash barrels. They come in bright yellow or red and are very noticeable! Donation boxes are shorter, white cardboard boxes more suitable for a smaller or internally held food drive.

GET NOTICED:

Promote your food drive. Alert potential donors at your school using flyers, social media, or word of mouth.

Choose a theme. Themed food drives often generate more interest. Brainstorm possible themes (ie: Souperbowl food drive, 100th day of school food drive, Martin Luther King Jr. Day food drive).

Sponsoring competitions between food drive groups (ie: an ice cream party for the grade that collects the most donations) or presenting special awards to key players can aid in the success of a food drive.

Select a visible location for your food drive. High traffic areas where donation containers are visible are best.

Be creative. Consider creating your own poster or sign to display near the donation drop off.
DURING YOUR FOOD DRIVE:

Regularly check donation containers. Transfer donations into smaller boxes if you start to run out of space.

Contact North Helpline if you need donations to be dropped off or picked up in intervals before your food drive end date. Give us at least two business days’ notice if changes to your drop off or pick up schedule need to be made.