Hosting internal food drives at your business/organization/place of worship

There are a number of places that host food drives for North Helpline year-round, and others that hold food drives on occasion for a special event or during a certain season.

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. 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 internal food drives at businesses run at least one week to give people time to bring in their donations. Many other organizations and churches, however, have collection bins year round for ongoing food drives.

Set goals for your food drive. No donation is too small, or too big! Decide if you will accept only non-perishable food/hygiene items, 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 in your communities using flyers, social media, or word of mouth.

Choose a theme. Themed food drives often generate more interest. Brainstorm possible themes (ie: Lake City Christian Church holds a “food fight” food drive that starts on Ash Wednesday and goes until Easter every year).

Sponsoring competitions between food drive groups 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. If you are able to drop off donations to North Helpline during our warehouse hours that is preferred. If applicable please give us at least two business days’ notice if changes to your drop off or pick up schedule need to be made.