Hosting food drives in your neighborhood

The least common type of food drives are ones held at neighborhood events or block parties, and door-to-door. However, these can also be the most fun and worthwhile when the whole community is involved! Ask Madeline for a copy of our “door-to-door food drive flyer” if you plan on arranging a door-to-door drive and contact our office as soon as possible, as door-to-door drives require more planning!

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. Food drives held at an event or done door-to-door typically last one day.

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 in your neighborhood using flyers, social media, or word of mouth.

*If you’re planning on doing a door-to-door neighborhood drive share our “door-to-door food drive flyer” with your neighbors well in advance so they know when donations will be picked up. Let Madeline know if you intend on conducting a door-to-door drive

Choose a theme. Themed food drives often generate more interest. Brainstorm possible themes (ie: Souperbowl Food Drive, “Trick or Treating” Food Drive, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Food Drive).

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. For neighborhood events, 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:
Greet donors and thank them for their donations!

Have North Helpline’s “Most Needed Items” flyers available for potential donors at events.

Do not leave donations unattended and regularly check donation containers. Transfer donations into smaller boxes if you start to run out of space.

Have a copy of North Helpline’s statistics with you to share if anyone wants to know more about North Helpline, the programs we provide, and the people we serve.

If you would like a representative from North Helpline to share more information or speak at an event, let us know and we might be able to stop by your event!