

DENVILLE SOCIAL SERVICES FOOD PANTRY TIPS FOR PLANNING A FOOD DRIVE



Running a Food Drive is a fun, hands-on way to help your neighbors in need. Much of the food we distribute throughout the community is collected in food drives; and undoubtedly your participation will make a direct and positive impact on our community.

Please consider conducting a drive in your neighborhood or at your place of business, school, scout group, civic organization or house of worship. Although it may seem like a lot of work, there are many options to make it rather easy and successful. For example, check out yougivegoods.com, for a super easy way to do an online food drive – you can plan from your couch!



HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS

1. A food drive can be as simple or complex as you wish it to be. Here are some ideas for types of drives and themes that might spark interest and support. Location is everything - the busier the location, the more donations you will receive. Some great places to hold food drives are:
 1. Grocery Stores
 2. Gyms
 3. Libraries
 4. Schools/PTA
 5. Colleges/Universities
 6. Sporting Events/Tournaments
 7. Networking Groups/Social Clubs
 8. Golf Outings
 9. Church/Religious Groups
 10. Corporate Offices
2. Have an event coming up like a sports game, concert recital, school play, holiday party or even a birthday party? Turn it into a food drive! Almost any event will work as a food drive, just ask the people that are attending to bring a couple of food items along to help those in need. Remember grocery store gift cards are also a huge help and make a tremendous difference for many of our clients.
3. Plan when and where you'll run your drive. Set the date and request permission of the appropriate party if you'd like to use their premises – such as outside a grocery store or other business. Consider the weather forecast if you are planning an outside or door-to-door collection.
4. Promote your food drive so the broader community knows about it and can support it. You might also use email, Facebook or your organization's bulletin to get the word out. Social Services will also promote this event for you via an email blast and on the Social Services Facebook page.

5. Make it easy for people by providing a list of items the Pantry needs. Social Services can help you with that and already have a template ready. If running a school or work based food drive consider having a theme, such as Macaroni Monday (plain pasta and macaroni & cheese), Tuna or Tomato Tuesday (canned tuna or tomato sauce), Wheaties Wednesday (cereals), Thirsty Thursday (juice and Parmalat milk) or TP Thursday and Fruity Friday (canned fruit).
6. The manner in which you collect the food can also assist in making the process easier. If you are collecting food door-to-door, consider dropping off bags at each house ahead of time with a note attached. If you are holding a drive at a collection site, place sturdy, well-marked containers in a visible location. Check the site frequently and remove some of the donations periodically. Don't forget to take some photos along the way, this helps us promote the drive and encourages others to consider hosting drives in the future.
7. Deliver the food! Contact the Pantry (973-625-8300) to set up a specific day and time when you will drop off the food and any monetary donations you received. Also, provide a rough estimate of the amount of food that will be delivered. Ensure that you have provided directions to the Pantry to all volunteers who are helping with the delivery.

Please remember that keeping the food pantry in the loop is one of the most important aspects of planning. This prevents multiple food drives being scheduled at the same time, which can result in an over-abundance of food and lead to waste.

Food Pantry
Feeding Hope