



Creating a hunger-free community

Food Drive Information

Thank you for your interest in holding a food drive to benefit the Worcester County Food Bank. Food drives can be held by individuals, groups, or companies. Anyone from a neighbor to a school to a company can participate in or organize a food drive.

How long should my food drive be? When should I have my food drive?

- A food drive can be any length of time you wish. Most food drives are a 1-2 weeks in length. Others are only 1 day long.
- Food drives are welcome any time of the year. A large percentage of the food drives happen in November and December; however, we strongly encourage food drives all year round.

What are the recommended non-perishable items to collect for a food drive?

- Soup, stew and chili
 - Dry and canned pasta
 - Macaroni and Cheese
 - Cereal, rice, and beans
 - Canned fruits and vegetables
 - Canned tuna and chicken
 - Peanut Butter and Jelly
- *No Glass *

Donations of money are always welcome; 96% of all donated resources to the Worcester County Food Bank go directly to feeding hungry people.

Should my food drive have a specific theme?

- A food drive theme is not necessary. Some individuals, companies, or groups decide to have a food drive with a creative theme and a catchy name. Here are just a few examples:
 - Stuff-a-Bus
 - Meat the Need: canned items with meat
 - Hill of Beans: canned or dry bean items
 - Corporate Food Fight: different areas of the company compete against each other
 - Entry fee for an event: bring in 3 cans for admission
 - One item: such as cereal, peanut butter, or canned fruit
 - Particular holiday or day of observance
 - Collect cans in lieu of library late fees

How should I promote my food drive?

- Posters
- Flyers
- Emails
- Announcements
- Food Bank Brochures
- Corporate Matching Programs

What type of boxes or containers should I use?

- Boxes the size of copy paper boxes or banana boxes are usually the best size to collect non-perishable food items in. In some cases we can provide small amounts of boxes for pick up. Please notify us ahead of time.

How do I deliver my food drive items to the Food Bank?

- The Worcester County Food Bank is located at 474 Boston Turnpike in Shrewsbury, MA 01545. We are next door to Border's Books on Route 9. Please park near the loading docks on the side of the building that's facing Worcester.
- Our delivery hours are from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Please call ahead to arrange a delivery date and time.

The Worcester County Food Bank is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is:

To Engage, Educate and Lead Worcester County in Creating a Hunger Free Community.

RECENT DATA

During fiscal year 2009, the Worcester County Food Bank distributed 5,279,766 pounds of donated food and grocery product to its network of 178 partner agencies that have programs for feeding people, including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. These agencies served 93,000 different people living in Central Massachusetts. Between 2008 and 2009 the number of people receiving emergency food assistance increased by 13%. The Food Bank is the primary source of donated food for its partner agencies.

For more information please visit our website: www.foodbank.org



For more information, contact: Food Acquisition Coordinator
Worcester County Food Bank, 474 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
Phone: 508-842-3663

