GETTING READY: YOUR FOOD DRIVE TOOLKIT!

Help your neighbors. Organize a food drive!
Last year, we distributed over one million pounds of food to our neighbors experiencing hunger and food insecurity - but we know that we can’t do that without your help!

One of the best ways to support the Maple Valley Food Bank is to hold a food drive. Holding a food drive - whether it be at school, work, church, or elsewhere - can be easy to do with the right planning. We’ve created this food drive toolkit to help you plan, promote, organize, and conduct your community food drive.

Getting started
Reach out to us
Before you start making plans for your food drive, get in touch with us! While we’re always happy to accept whatever you collect, we often have specific needs that have to be met for our clients - whether that be cereal, pasta, or items for our baby cupboard.

Assemble your team
If you belong to an organization, you can organize your food drive with other members of the group so that you have people to work with! Holding a food drive with coworkers, peers, or through your church are also popular options. Whoever you join forces with, identify one person to be the lead contact so that people know who to go to if they have questions.

Pick the right time
Decide when you want to hold your food drive. We usually receive our largest donations during the holidays, which is a popular time to collect food. However, it can be highly impactful for our clients if you hold your drive at a time when our food supply might be lower.

You can make your food drive a one-day event or old it over a few weeks. Just be sure to send out reminders if the drive is held over a long period of time so that people don’t forget about it.

Find a location and set your goals
Determine where you want to hold your food drive and if you want multiple collection locations. Make sure your collection point is highly visible so that people notice it! Then, set your goals to motivate your team to meet a specific target.
Promote your drive
Before starting your food drive, spread the word! Start with flyers, social media posts, or announcements at school or church. You could also contact the local paper and ask them to help promote the drive, or to come take pictures of your team.

As you publicize the food drive, make sure to mention what foods and materials are needed and where and when they are being collected.

Ideas for success
Make it a competition
Competitions always get people out of their comfort zone, so make your food drive a contest to get people excited! If you’re holding it at school, make it a contest between grades. At work, you can put departments against one another.

Incentivize your drive
Incentives can also fuel your food drive. Is there something your peers, coworkers, or community members might like to see or receive if you hit your goal?

Donate your birthday or other special event
Instead of asking for gifts, ask for donations to the food bank! We’ve seen this result in wildly successful donations.

Finishing it up
Your food drive is over and you’ve collected a ton of donations! THANK YOU! Get in touch with our team to schedule a drop off. Calling ahead guarantees we’re open and able to receive your donation, and gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude in person!

Suggested Donations for the MVFB
Canned food - tomatoes, sauce, meat, tuna, fruit, chili, ravioli, etc.
Packaged food - cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, peanut butter, rice, flour, macaroni and cheese, etc.
Hygiene items - shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, feminine products, deodorant, etc.
Baby cupboard items - diapers, diaper wipes, formula, baby food, etc.

Monetary donations are always graciously accepted for the purchase of wholesale products.