

Ideas for Food and Fund Drives

A successful food drive is a great community building experience. It inspires people. It makes them want to participate and contribute. And by supporting People’s Resource Center, they’ll be making a real difference in the lives of our DuPage County neighbors in need.

When you plan your food drive, think big. Get your employer, service club, or congregation involved. Solicit their ideas and suggestions. Ask grocery stores, movie theaters and large retailers for assistance. Be bold – many national chains earmark funds for local community engagement. Publicize the event. Send press releases to local media. Have your city government issue a proclamation to promote the food drive. You may end up with more support and resources than you ever imagined.



Themed Food Pantry Drives

Want to collect donated items for PRC’s food pantry, but you’re not sure what’s needed? Try using a daily, weekly, or overall theme to focus your drive around these essential items:

<p>ROOT CELLAR BOUNTY (longer-lasting fresh produce)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apples & oranges • cabbage • carrots • onions & garlic • sweet potatoes • winter squash 	<p>PROTEIN POWER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peanut butter • canned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – tuna or salmon – chicken – beef stew or chili • beans & lentils • nuts or trail mix 	<p>BEAN COUNTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • canned or dried: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – pinto beans – black beans – kidney beans – chickpeas – bean/lentil soups • dried lentils
<p>AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brown rice • canned kernel corn • popcorn • bulgur wheat • pearled barley • whole wheat crackers • whole grain pasta 	<p>PANTRY STAPLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • canola or olive oil • noodles & macaroni • canned tomatoes • spaghetti sauce • grated Parmesan • instant potatoes • chicken broth 	<p>RISE AND SHINE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oatmeal • raisins/dried fruit • shredded wheat cereal • toasted oat cereal • canned fruit in juice • evaporated milk • coffee/tea
<p>OH, BABY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disposable diapers • diaper wipes • diaper rash ointment • baby shampoo • iron fortified formula • infant cereal • baby food 	<p>HEALTHY LIVING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low sodium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – canned vegetables – canned soup • tuna, canned in water • canned fruit & juices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – unsweetened, or – no-sugar-added 	<p>IT’S PERSONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toilet paper • bar soap • toothbrush/paste • deodorant • shampoo • feminine hygiene items • laundry detergent



MEETING OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Fill 'er Up!

Set a goal to FILL a designated area at your school, church or workplace with food donations for People's Resource Center. Stuff a truck, a school bus, the Principal's office, or a conference room with food. How about outlining a map of DuPage County on your gymnasium floor, athletic field, or school grounds and filling in the area with food? Then have a party to celebrate your accomplishment!

Here's a great example: for several years, the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce has supported People's Resource Center by hosting their annual [Stuff-A-Truck](#) event. Chamber members conduct a food drive throughout the month of October. Then, on Make a Difference Day, they parade the truck through town to transport their collection, and cap it all off with a free community fun festival.

Neighborhood Food Drive

Around Halloween, try a canned food drive where neighborhood kids go door to door (accompanied by an adult) to collect donations for the People's Resource Center food pantry. Distribute flyers or door hangers in advance so your neighbors will have a chance to prepare. People are used to handing out candy at Halloween. Now they can also give nutritious food to folks who really need it. Be sure to bring along your little red wagon – canned food gets heavy FAST!

Many local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops have done Trick or Treat drives to benefit People's Resource Center. It's a wonderful way for kids to learn about community service and to get into the spirit of giving. Of course, door to door food drives aren't just for Halloween. Consider scheduling yours around a different holiday or time of year. How about Flag Day, Valentine's Day, or St. Patrick's Day?

Dress Down Day

A Dress Down Day is one of the simplest ways to raise money in the workplace. Employees pay \$5 to dress down on a specified day. All the "fees" collected are then donated to support the People's Resource Center. Put a sign in your reception area explaining Dress Down Day. Give participants a sticker to wear that shows their support. And think about putting a donation jar in your reception area, too. It's an easy way for clients and visitors to participate in the fundraiser as well.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice. Visit www.souperbowl.org to learn more and register.

In Wheaton, both the St. Paul Lutheran Youth Ministry and St. Daniel the Prophet congregation organized successful Souper Bowls of Caring to support People's Resource Center. Your group can, too!



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Friendly Competition

Contests get people involved and excited. Divide your organization into teams by department, floor, grade, etc. and choose a food drive leader for each. Then have teams compete on challenges like these:

- Build the biggest pyramid out of canned goods
- Design & decorate the best food collection bin
- Most creative display of food (packaged non-perishables, please)
- Collect the team's weight in food

Employees/students can vote for their favorite team by donating a food item, or a specific dollar amount. Think about rewarding the winning team with a pizza party or an ice cream social. The People's Resource Center food pantry receives all donated food and funds.

The kids at Edison Middle School used a variation of this idea to collect a teacher's weight in pennies. At 181 pennies per pound, they were aiming to collect \$325. Their teacher was such a good sport that he tried hard to GAIN weight to raise more money to support People's Resource Center!

Guessing Game

Guessing games stimulate conversation and bring people together. They're also the easiest kind of competition to organize. Participants either pay \$1-\$5 or contribute a food item to take a guess. Proceeds are donated to People's Resource Center. Try these ideas or come up with your own:

- **How many items in the jar?** Display a large jar filled with MANY of the same item. Jelly beans and gumballs are both good choices. The closest guess wins the contents of the jar.
- **You must've been a beautiful baby...** Display baby pictures of employees/teachers/celebrities and have a contest to see who can guess who they are. Sell guess sheets. Award small prizes to those who come closest. Try this with high school yearbook photos, too.

Virtual Challenge

Want to raise money for PRC by meeting a personal challenge? Your friends/coworkers/family can honor your achievement by making a secure donation directly to People's Resource Center at www.peoplesrc.org. Just have them type your name/challenge in the "comments" section and we'll keep track of the tally.

Clare Masters marked her 100-pound weight loss with a "Virtual 100-Pound Party." Instead of celebrating with cake and ice cream, she asked friends to donate 100 pounds of food to a local pantry. In one month, PRC received monetary and food donations equivalent to 1,822 pounds of food!