



## **Food Drive Neighborhood Canvassing**

### Neighborhood Sign Up

1. Log on to [www.NeighborhoodFoodDrive.org](http://www.NeighborhoodFoodDrive.org).
2. Register for the ShareFest Lake County Food Drive, choosing the church with whom they will work to collect food in the neighborhoods.
3. Find and stake the neighborhood for canvassing online (complete instructions at the site).
4. If someone has already staked the neighborhood, consider another neighborhood or contact the individual listed to see in what ways you can join forces.
5. If bags are to be handed out informally, families should check the website to see if their neighborhood will be covered. If it is not, recommend that they register to cover their neighborhood even if they do only a few houses.

Duplication is not good public relations either in the community or in a church. Both have happened, so be aware. This web tool will help us cover more of the county effectively.

### Bag Distribution to the Volunteers

1. Bags for neighborhood distribution will be available for churches to pick up on Saturday, September 5 from 9-3 at Village Church of Gurnee (1319 N. Hunt Club Road). Please contact Kim Dougherty (sffooddrive@gmail.com or 847-293-3350) to set up a time if September 5 does not work.
2. The number of bags desired is required by September 3. Submit this information to Kim Dougherty as soon as possible.
3. Through GENEROUS support of Sunset Foods, Jewel-Osco, Trader Joe's, Uline, Alpha, Catalyst, Love INC of Lake County among many others, there is no cost for the bags. Please express your appreciation to the management as you feel led. Please forward to Kim any direct communication you wish to make.
4. Distribute the bags to volunteers along with the "Food Drive Neighborhood Packet." (See below). Either when they sign up or on a designated day. Help will be required to facilitate the distribution.

### Food Drive Neighborhood Packet

1. The packet should include the following documents currently at [www.catalystweb.org](http://www.catalystweb.org) and clicking on the County-wide Food Drive link:
  - Food Drive Bag Flyer
  - Food Drive Donor Thank You
  - Volunteer Canvassing Instructions
2. Each church may wish to get a permit from the local police to canvass a neighborhood. At the very least, the police should be informed and kept abreast of when people may be going through the neighborhood. Other municipal or association rules may apply.

### 3. The basic instructions are as follows:

- Fill out the information on the bag flyer and *then* make copies.
- Staple the flyer to the bag.
- **PRAY** before canvassing the streets both in deliver of bags as well as pick up.
- Consider meeting your neighbors, establishing a relationship. THEY may need help themselves. Don't force anything but the food drive is a natural conversation piece. (See below for more tips and helps).
- If possible, where a name tag or otherwise visually identify yourself
- Be respectful and courteous at all times.
- Distribute the bags in the neighborhoods approximately a week before bag collection
  - Collect : Sept 26 or 27                      Distribute: Sept 19 or 20
  - Collect: Oct 3 or 4                              Distribute: Sept 26 or 27
  - Collect: Oct 10 or 11                          Distribute: Oct 3 or 4
- Collect bags at specified time the following week.
- Bring bags to predetermined place at predetermined time. (See Drop Off Sites).

### Drop Off Sites (DOS)

Churches Serving as a DOS: No special considerations outside of established time and day are needed for collection and sorting of food. Sorting/loading schedule should take into account when food will be dropped off from neighborhoods.

Churches Not Serving as a DOS: Volunteers should collect all food in one spot at one time. This may be at the designated DOS or at your own church. At that time all food should be weighed or bags counted. (Weight is preferred as it will maintain a common denominator with how the food is counted by NIFB). Food, once weighed, should be brought to the DOS during the hours of 10-3.

### Taking the Drive One Step Beyond

The food drive is a natural and easy way to speak with one's neighbors. The need for food is a common and well known fact, especially this year. If you haven't ever spoken with your neighbors, make the effort now. They may be the very people in need of the benefits of the food drive. You may not gather food or even be able to meet the immediate need, but you can break down some walls. Show the love of Christ. Introduce them to your church and its commitment to the community. This small act goes a long way to making Jesus Christ real to them. Remember we are His hands and feet, able to reveal the power of a transformed life just by being in the lives of our neighbors. Follow these simple steps to open a door of communication.

- Introduce yourself and where you live in the neighborhood.
- Tell them what you are doing: food drive for your church. NAME your church and where it is located.
- *If you feel it appropriate*, ask if they have any prayer requests that your group/church/family can pray for. Be sure to pray for them! Do not feel obligated to ask for a prayer request. High pressure 'sales' is not conducive to building a long-term relationship.
- Thank them and continue on. ALWAYS be gracious and courteous even and especially when your neighbor may not be.
- After the drive, go back to your neighbors that you met and interacted with. Tell them the results of the drive and ask about the prayer request if they made one. Establish community and relationship without high pressure. Consider opening other doors to relationship (dinner, outing with families, or invite them to a special event at church). Talk with your pastor or ministry leaders about other ways to build a relationship with your unchurched neighbors.
- If you have a neighborhood newsletter, publish the results of the drive there. Tell them how much they as a neighborhood were able to gather. Let them know how to contact you if there is a need.
- Consider logging on to [www.pray4yourblock.org](http://www.pray4yourblock.org) to register your block, receiving helps and reminders of ways to impact your neighborhood for eternity, not just with the temporal and necessary help of daily food. God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can hope and ask!

In all this, remember that is God who will draw them. You are only called upon to plant or water the seed. Let Christ's love show through you. Not only will necessary food and support be raised for those in need, but the power of Christ can be revealed through you by a simple conversation.