



Food Drive Overview

ShareFest County Food Drive Purpose Statement

Mobilizing the Church of Lake County as One Body
To gather food and support for the hungry in our county
To come along side our neighbors in need
To restore the reputation of Christ in our community
To express the love of Jesus contained in the hearts of his People
To transform lives and neighborhoods in the name of Christ
To glorify God through our unified act of service

When? September 26-27, October 3-4 & October 10-11

Who? YOU, the Church of Lake County helping your neighbors & food pantries throughout the county

What do I need to do?

1. Determine what type of food drive your church should do:
Would your church canvass a neighborhood or collect food from attendees only?
Would your church want to be a drop off site for not just your own church but those participating that weekend? If so, a neighborhood canvassing effort is a requirement as well as additional volunteer staffing for both Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.
2. Appoint the Church Point Person to champion and manage the food drive for your church.
3. Contact the County Food Drive Coordinator to arrange dates and resources for the drive. The coordinator will distribute specific instructions and resources (bags, signs, trucks) in advance of the event, giving tools and guidance to the point person.
4. Cast the Vision for the food drive to your church through various communications such as the ShareFest video, bulletin inserts, posters, email and Sunday announcements.

Where will the food go?

All food collected and placed on the truck will be sent to Northern Illinois Food Bank. The food and money collected in the drive will be turned into credits that Lake County food pantries can use to buy **WHATEVER** food they need. So an expired can of tuna becomes fresh meat and produce for those in need! Nothing is wasted and the pantries who serve our neighbors receive a maximum benefit.

What about giving to a specific food pantry or people in the congregation in need?

It is *encouraged* that food collected in the drive be used to help those in your church with a need, and it is certainly possible to give directly to a food pantry. However, it is **CRITICAL** to remember that any food given to individuals or pantries **MUST BE SORTED** for expiration dates and no denting of cans. The greatest benefit to the pantries comes through using Northern IL Food Bank to process the donations. For individuals, special care must be taken before food is given out but it is encouraged.

Is there a cost for the resources?

Through generous support of Sunset Foods, Jewel, Trader Joe's, Uline, Northern Illinois Food Bank, and Catalyst there is minimal cost to the churches. Posters, internal signs, bulletin inserts and refreshments on the day(s) of the event are all that might be required. The greatest resource is in the people who participate.

What is the Timeline?

Designate a Point Person	August 15 or before
Determine church commitment and number of bags needed Sept 1 (Conservative estimate – 25% of your attendance x 25 bags; i.e. 300 attendees x 25% = 75 x 25 bags each = 1,875 bags)	
Drive Sign Ups	Aug 30 – Sept 19
Communicate Drive Information to Church Body	Aug 30 – Drive Date
Pick Up Bags from County (stored at Village Church of Gurnee)	Sept 5, 9:00- 3:00 p.m.
Give bags to church volunteers	2 weeks prior to collection
Distribute bags to neighborhoods & general church body	1 week prior to collection
Weigh bags for entire church (for non-drop off site churches)	Day of Collection
Take bags to Drop Off Site	Day of Collection, 10:00 – 3:00

New for 2009

This year we have created a website to manage the neighborhood canvassing effort. Our hope and goal is for churches to canvass around their church building and for families to canvass in their own neighborhoods. Obviously there will be some conflicts with who does what and when. This is why we have sought this alternative mapping system. As this is the first year, we may augment how we use it until the bugs are worked out, but it will be a vital tool this year and in years to come for families and church point people. More information on this website will be available our informational meeting on Thursday, August 27 at 7 PM (The Chapel Libertyville).