



Food Drive Volunteer Neighborhood Canvassing Instructions

Thank you for volunteering to canvass a neighborhood for this year's food drive! It is a great opportunity to show the love of Christ in a tangible way and collect needed food for pantries throughout Lake County.

Log on to www.neighborhoodfooddrive.org to register your neighborhood in the ShareFest Lake County Food Drive. Your church food drive coordinator may have already done this for you. If s/he has not, please do so even if you are only canvassing a few houses. This will allow other churches and fellow Christians in your area to know that those houses are covered. If someone has already taken your neighborhood consider another neighborhood or contacting them to assist in the effort. (If you do not have internet access, please contact your church food drive coordinator for help).

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.

Basic instructions:

- Fill out the information on the bag flyer listing your name, your church and when you will be picking up the bags from the neighborhood. Put a personal note if you like.
- Make copies of the flyer. (Saves from writing them all out).
- Staple the flyer to the outside of the bag.
- Pray before canvassing the streets both in delivery 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 'Taking the Drive One Step Beyond' on the other side of this sheet).
- Wear a name tag or otherwise visually identify yourself, if possible.
- Be respectful and courteous at all times.
- Place bags in visible areas where they will be most like to be grabbed.
- Distribute the bags in the neighborhoods approximately a week before bag collection
 - If Collecting: Sept 26 or 27 Distribute on: Sept 19 or 20
 - If Collecting: Oct 3 or 4 Distribute on: Sept 26 or 27
 - If Collecting: Oct 10 or 11 Distribute on: Oct 3 or 4
- Collect bags at specified time the following week. Bring bags to predetermined place at predetermined time. If your church is a drop off site, bring your collection to the church anytime Saturday between 10-3. If your church is not a drop off site, your food drive coordinator will give you direction on time and date. This is important so your church may receive credit for your food drive effort.

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 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.