



Serving the communities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan and Rosemount

Organizing a Food Drive 101

Many people in our communities are experiencing hunger, or are just one paycheck away from it. Hunger might well be affecting family members, neighbors, co-workers or friends, and we may not be aware of it. The need for food at the Eagan Resource Center (ERC) is extremely high right now. Conducting food or fund drives are a great way for your congregation, school, community group, business, or neighborhood to get involved at the ERC. Contact the Eagan Resource Center (ERC) to let us know of your intention to organize a community food or fund drive. We can give you guidance and a list of the most needed food shelf items.

Step 1 Organize a committee of volunteers. Get several members of your organization, community or school to help with the collection and in spreading the word about your food drive. Set a goal for the food drive and let everyone know about it! Then provide continual motivation to meet the goal.

Step 2 Make containers for collecting the food donations. Announce designated areas for people to drop off the donated goods. The display should be in a well lit area and clearly marked.

Step 3 Ask everyone involved to advertise the food drive to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Some ideas to promote your food drive are: website, flyers, social networking (i.e. facebook/twitter), e-mail, paycheck stuffers, newsletters, word of mouth, door hangers. Let everyone know the food collection will be donated to the Eagan Resource Center to serve those in need.

Did you know that if you make a monetary donation to ERC we can purchase 10 times the food at our food banks than you can at your local grocer?

Now accepting donations online at www.eaganrc.org



Step 4 If you are doing a neighborhood food drive, consider placing empty grocery bags on neighbors' doors with an enclosed flyer to explain your food drive. Make sure the flyer indicates the date of your return to collect their bag of donations. It is a good idea to give neighbors at least a couple of days to fill their bag.

Step 5 Celebrate your success! Reward volunteers and/or donors with a light meal or refreshments. Take photos of the event in progress and write a summary of your efforts. Send these to Barb D. at ERC by e-mail barbd@eaganrc.org . ERC would be happy to include this partnership in our newsletter and on our website.

Step 6 Contact the Eagan Resource Center to arrange a drop off time/date for the food donations. Just call 651-688-3189 and ask for Barb, Operations Manager.

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Here is a list of items ERC often needs:

- Crackers
- Jelly
- Juice
- Ketchup
- Canned meats
- Pasta dinners (boxed and canned)
- Rice
- Rice dinners
- Snacks
- Baking mixes (muffin, cake, etc.)
- Flour
- Sugar (white, powdered, brown)
- Cereal
- Pasta sauce
- Canned tomatoes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Diapers (Sizes 4- 5 especially)
- Laundry detergent
- Laundry dryer sheets
- Personal hygiene products (toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, body wash)
- Grocery gift cards
- Gas cards

The ERC goes through many thousands of bags every year.
Please consider saving *gently used paper grocery bags* for us too.

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Food Drive Themes

- *Plant a Row for the ERC* – do you garden? Consider planting a row in your garden specifically for the Eagan Resource Center and deliver the fresh garden produce to us as it harvests.
- *Food Day* – designate days of the week for specific foods, i.e. Macaroni Monday, Tuna Tuesday, Wheaties Wednesday, Turkey Thursday, Fruity Friday.
- *Challenges/Competitions* – organize a contest between classrooms or grade levels with lots of categories, such as 1) largest individual donation, 2) most original design for a food barrel, 3) raise our weight in food.
- *MEAT the Need* – canned meat drive.
- *Food Drive Event* – have an event, party, or production as part of the drive and charge “food admission” – the admission price = a certain number of food items.
- *Fill ‘er Up, Stuff-a-Bus, Fill-a-Truck, Fill A Shopping Cart* – fill the gymnasium, truck, bus or other designated area with food.
- *Wash Away Hunger* – a car wash where the price of a wash is a food item.
- *Hunger Walk, Run, Bike, or Dance-a-thon* – have sponsors pledge food instead of money.
- *Specialty Boxes or Bags* - Baby Boxes (may contain formula, diapers, baby cereal, fruit juice, and baby food), Kid Packs (may contain macaroni and cheese, alphabet soup, chicken noodle, instant oatmeal, peanut butter, pudding packs, applesauce, cereal grain bars, juice boxes)
- *Hot Dish Drive* – contain the ingredients to make hot dishes.
- *Winter’s Coming Drive* – donations consist of “winter” items like stew, chili, etc.
- *Bathroom Cabinet Bags* – contain items commonly found in your bathroom: soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, shampoo or deodorant.

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Food Drive Slogans:

"Hunger's Heroes"

"No matter how you say it, 'Hunger Hurts.'"

"The hungry are counting on you."

"Let's get together to end hunger."

"Let's clean up on hunger."

"Building a better community by fighting hunger today."

"Lend the hungry a helping hand."

"Turn the Tables on Hunger"

"A City without Hunger is a City with Heart"

"Cans for Children"

"Super Kids Soup Collection"

"It Makes Cents!" (coin drive)

"Hunger Won't Wait"

"Raise Your Voice for the Hungry"

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