

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

Food Drive Help Kit

Unbeknownst to many of us living here in Hamilton County, many of our neighbors are wondering where their next meal will be coming from. Feeding America, from their Map the Meal Gap Study, estimates there are more than 26,000 food insecure individuals in Hamilton County. Being food insecure means you don't have enough food now or uncertain access to enough food. This forces some very tough decisions, such as "Do I buy food for my children or do I pay my rent and utility bill?"

Food insecurity affects 8.2% of our county's total population and 11.7% of our children. Only 36% are likely eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP benefits. This increases the reliance on local groups to help.

The flip side of this stark story lies with our local food pantries. Every week over 40 + food pantries in the county open their doors. Families are not judged, but met with a friendly face, a God Bless, and needed food. Some pantries serve about 20 families a week, some well over 200. If each family receives only 20+ items each week, this adds up to 400 – 4000 items each week that each pantry must stock. Making sure those shelves are not empty is a huge burden for the pantries to bear alone.

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, Inc. (HCH) was established in 2009 when several of the food pantries in the county joined together and set up a new non-profit entity to assist all Hamilton County food pantries to fulfill the pantrys' food needs. We have since expanded to helping children's meal programs. We try to make sure that the food pantries can first concentrate on their most important mission, their clients.

Since our inception, we have collected and distributed over 1,000,000 lbs. of food, or more importantly 833,000 meals. Hamilton County schools, businesses, churches, families and more are providing the food we need through locally organized food drives. All donated food will be sorted and distributed to more than forty local pantries and meal programs at no cost to them. Many of the same volunteers who work in these local pantries and programs will graciously donate their time to serve as food bank volunteers.

We thank you so much for your interest in helping our community's less fortunate by organizing a food drive. Hopefully the following pages can answer your questions and provide the necessary items to make this as simple and beneficial as possible.

We strongly believe that by fully working together WITH YOU we can most efficiently help those who are less fortunate within our community.

HCHFoodBank.org



Details of how Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank can help you with your food drive

Contact information:

fooddrive@hchfoodbank.org

What we can provide for you to collect food in:

We welcome you to use your own collection item(s) that will ideally fit your food drive, but please also know we can provide collection barrels if you would desire.

Barrels – 2 sizes, 18” dia. by 28” tall or 22” dia. by 33” tall (preferred). These barrels have our organization information clearly marked on them.



If you would like to pick up barrels and/or drop off the food yourself the food bank is open every **Tuesday from 10-11:30 am or Thursday from 9:30 – 11:30 am at our 1605 N. 10th St. Noblesville location.** This option helps our volunteer staff especially during the holiday. Please use the north entrance by the large garage door. and ask for Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank volunteers to assist you. We are in the same building with the White River Christian Church Food Pantry.

We provide drop off of the empty barrels and pickup of the filled barrels. See above contact information to make arrangements. Starting in 2019, we are asking that you arrange for drop-offs and pick-ups on Tuesdays and Thursdays if at all possible..

If you would like to put your own organization’s insignia and dates for the food drive you can easily attach a temporary flier to the barrels for your use.

Needed Food Items

All non-perishable, current items are welcome for the food bank. Please see attached food drive list for your food drive. In 2019, we had the food pantries and meal programs rank their most needed items to create our Food Drive list.

Monetary Donations

All monetary donations are gladly accepted. Consider a **Food Card Drive** - A donation of Food or Gift Cards from Meijer, Kroger, Aldi, or Target can be used by us and our partners in the purchase of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat or basic staples year round. Please see attached “Monetary Donation” page to see how we can fruitfully use your donation.

Publicity for your food drive

Please send highlights of your food drive to president@hchfoodbank.org with Subject line Facebook – Name of Group – Food Drive or post to our Facebook page, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank,



HAMILTON COUNTY HARVEST
FOOD BANK

Donate: Please consider a donation of your funds in support of Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank as we work together with you and 40+ food pantries and meal programs to feed Hamilton County!

Food Cards: A donation of Food or Gift Cards from Meijer, Kroger, or Aldi, can be used by us and our partners in the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables and meat year round – Consider a "Food Card Drive".

Volunteer: See "Sign Up Genius" on our website. It has limited opportunities (during COVID) for individuals and families. See the Food Drive Help Kit on our website.

Food Drive Items

Top Food Drive Items

as Ranked by the Hamilton County Food Pantries and Meal Programs

1. Canned Chicken and/or Tuna	6. Microwaveable or Bagged Rice or Pasta or Potato Sides	11. Helper Mixes
2. Canned Meat Stews or Chunky Meat Soups	7. Cereal Boxes - i.e. Cheerios, Chex preferred	12. Mac and Cheese Individual Cups or Boxes
3. Canned Fruits	8. Peanut Butter and Jelly - small jars preferred	13. Individual Packed Fruit and/or Applesauce Cups
4. Chef Boyardee with meat cans	9. Canned Vegetables - Peas, Carrots, Potatoes,	14. Granola Bars or Microwave Popcorn
5. Pasta Sauce - cans preferred	10. Pancake Mix and Syrup	15. Ketchup and Mustard

FOR CANNED ITEMS – TRY TO BUY POP-TOP FOR EASY OPEN
PLEASE NO Corn or Green Beans – these are the most popular food drive items so we will already be receiving plenty.

PLEASE CHECK DATES ON THE FOOD AND DONATE CURRENT ITEMS.



Donate Online

HCHFoodBank.org

Help by selecting the most healthy options for our families, i.e. no salt added, no sugar added, whole wheat/whole grain, fruit packed in water, etc. **THANK YOU!**

We welcome all monetary donations! Many times throughout the year, we do not receive enough donated food to keep our shelves stocked. Over \$85,000 was needed last year to shop and meet programming needs.

Consider a **Food Card Drive** - A donation of Food or Gift Cards from Meijer, Kroger, Aldi, or Target can be used by us and our partners in the purchase of fresh fruits vegetables , meat and basic staples year round. \$100 Gift Cards are ideal, any denomination would be gladly accepted.

Consider online donations.

Please use the attached code to help process.



HCH Food Bank
Donate Online

Or this link:

[Donate Online](https://www.HCHFoodBank.org) through our [HCHFoodBank.org](https://www.HCHFoodBank.org) secure website.

**Make checks payable to:
Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, Inc.
P.O. Box 881
Noblesville, IN 46060**

The food bank is a full 501c3 organization allowing all donations to be fully tax deductible.

HCH

HAMILTON COUNTY HARVEST FOOD BANK, Inc.

I was hungry and you fed me.
Matthew 25:35



SCAN ME!



Food Drive Collection Dates:

___/___/___ to ___/___/___

www.HCHFoodBank.org

Working together **WITH YOU** to Feed Hamilton County!