



National Association of Letter Carriers

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Dear Branch President,

Last spring, we collected approximately 71 million pounds of food in the 23rd year of our Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Over the history of the food drive, letter carriers have collected more than 1.4 billion pounds of food with last year being our 12th consecutive year of surpassing 70 million pounds collected. While we have certainly gained experience and confidence through our accomplishments, we must remain ever vigilant in our commitment to continuing the good work of helping those in need.

Notable under normal circumstances, our efforts in 2015 were especially impressive considering that branches had to take on the additional work and expense of helping to fund the food drive postcards. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts in funding the postcards by soliciting financial support from local partners and/or providing money from your branch. To that end, I am pleased to report we have secured a new premier partner for 2016: the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union. Through the strong support of UFCW, along with the backing of our other national food drive partners, the postcards for 2016 are completely funded. This means we can all focus immediately on planning and organizing a successful food drive for 2016.

In light of the enormous success of the 2015 food drive, all letter carriers in every participating branch should consider themselves winners. You and your members worked tirelessly with your communities to make a difference for millions in need. And as we saw in our final tally, the competitive spirit of the food drive is alive and well as a new national champion, Central Florida Branch 1091, took top honors for food collections among all NALC branches collecting more than 1.7 million pounds of food. That is simply incredible!

Our continued efforts in the fight against hunger in America has made us all too familiar with the staggering numbers of people in need. The availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food, is limited or uncertain for 1 in 6 Americans, many of whom are in households with at least one person working. These are the households of single-parents with young children, grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren, college students or households with one parent actively serving in the military. These are folks who are doing everything “right,” often working more than one job but still unable to make ends meet. They share the same values and dreams as we do.

Our extraordinary history of filling local food shelves in communities across the country is possible because of the dedication and hard work of leaders such as yourself. In order to continue to build on that success, we must foster the growing involvement of partners and inspire letter carriers. Many hands make light work, and together as a team, we’ll rise to meet the need for food.

In 2016, there is an added incentive for us to do well: We confirmed with Guinness World Records that the NALC owns the current “record to beat” for the largest one-day food drive in the world. The 77.1 million pounds collected in 2011 is accepted as the current world record in the category of a one-day food drive conducted at multiple locations. So with a serious collective effort with the 2016 Letter Carriers’ Food Drive, it is possible to set a new world record by breaking the one we currently hold.

Please complete the enclosed food drive registration form *now* and mail it, by March 1, to: NALC Food Drive, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. Your branch food drive coordinator will then be mailed important resources and information designed to help with all areas and experience levels of the food drive.

You can also complete this registration form on-line. Type in the required information, print and mail it in. The online registration form is available at nalc.org/food.

New to the registration process for 2016 is the ability to request an additional mailing of the *Partnership Opportunities Materials*, to help you and your branch make a professional pitch to potential local food drive sponsors. Materials include a DVD and brochure as leave-behind information for the business-owners you meet, presenting them an opportunity to partner with the food drive. Just circle “yes” next to *Partnership Opportunities Materials* and they will be sent to you as soon as possible.

You have a committed and experienced team of brothers and sisters who are ready to help you with whatever you need. The food drive is supported by regional food drive coordinators who can help you in a more direct way, answering questions and discussing all of the elements of preparation. You are never more than a phone call or e-mail away from support. (Contact list enclosed.)

There are many new and exciting things happening right now that are sure to make our 2016 Letter Carriers’ Food Drive one that meets a real need and makes us all proud. This is our way of giving back to the cities and neighborhoods we serve. It’s our time to shine, and I know I can count on your commitment and leadership.

Please join us and register for the 2016 Letter Carriers’ Food Drive.

Fraternally,



Fredric V. Rolando

President