

Sample Letter to your Local News Media (2021)

Dear Editor:

Saturday, May 8th marks the 29th anniversary of one of America's great days of giving — the National Association of Letter Carriers *Stamp Out Hunger* Food drive.

Letter carriers walk through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many, hunger.

So, each year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from our customers. These donations go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in (insert name of city) who need our help.

Last year, the 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® food drive was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, you stepped up and helped out your local food banks and pantries with monetary donations from the Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive and local NALC branches. These collected donations converted to approximately 13 million pounds of food for local food pantries and banks. Over the course of its 28-year history, the drive has collected well over 1.88 billion pounds of food, thanks to a postal service universal delivery network that spans the entire nation, including Puerto Rico, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The need for food donations is great. Currently, more than 37 million Americans—1 in 9—are unsure where their next meal is coming from. More than eleven million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And nearly 5.5 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help.

Our food drive's timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need.

Participating in this year's Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox on Saturday, May 8th and your letter carrier will do the rest. With your help, letter carriers and the US Postal Service have collected over 1.88 billion pounds of food in the United States over the 28 years as a national food drive. Please help us in our fight to end hunger, as we celebrate our 29th anniversary year in America's great day of giving.

Sincerely,
(Your name)
Letter Carrier
(City/State)