



Food drive almost here

NALC's 26th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is just weeks away—on Saturday, May 12—and with that date drawing ever closer, food drive coordinators in hundreds of NALC branches across the country are finalizing their preparations for the nation's largest one-day food collection event, designed to help replenish local food banks.

"Too many people in this country are going hungry," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "We know this to be true because we see it as we deliver to every address in the United States at least six days a week."

Sadly, statistics back this up. About 49 million Americans—almost 1 in 6—are unsure where their next meal is coming from. This includes 13 million children, 5 million seniors and 3 million veterans.

Since 1992, when the national food drive began, letter carriers in every part of the country have worked with other postal co-workers and allies to use the second Saturday in May as a day to give something back to the communities that know and trust us.

Last year, the food drive collected more than 72 million pounds of non-perishable food, raising the total amount of donations picked up over the drive's quarter-century to more than 1.5 billion pounds.

By the time our national food drive rolls around each year, the shelves of food pantries and other charitable organizations have nearly run out of donations made over the holidays—turning our hard work on Food Drive Day into a much-needed replenishment with summer fast approaching. The drive's timing is particularly important because most school meal programs aren't available in summer.

Crucial partnerships

"Letter carriers lead this massive collection effort," President Rolando said, "but we couldn't make the food drive a reality without the help of our national partners."

This year's partners are the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA), Valpak, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO and Valassis. "These partners provide tangible support that helps to encourage the generous participation of our postal customers," Rolando said.

This effort would not be possible without the support of the U.S. Postal Service. "I encourage postal employees across the country to support the food drive by delivering postcards and promotional bags in advance and collecting donations on May 12," Postmaster General Megan Brennan said. "I look forward to working with you as we deliver food for families in need and help stamp out hunger."

And UFCW President Marc Perrone noted, "Helping feed America's hungry is a mission we are proud to share in, and by participating in the Letter Carriers' 'Stamp Out Hunger' food drive, we can give American families wholesome, nutritious food. It is a crucial step to creating the better America we all believe in."

UFCW's support, along with that of the other national food drive partners, means that postcards for 2018 are completely funded.

"The postcards are great," President Rolando said. "They are an important piece of our larger communication strategy." Working with local post offices to make sure the postcards are distributed in a timely manner also is crucial, he said.

Fill a Bag. Help Feed Families.

Place healthy nonperishable food donations near your mailbox

Donations Stay in Your Community

Saturday, May 12, 2018

Help Us Stamp Out Hunger, Spread the Word.

Facebook.com/StampOutHunger @StampOutHunger stampoutheungerfooddrive.us



Fill a Bag. Help Feed Families.

Bag healthy nonperishable food and place by the mailbox for letter carrier delivery to local food banks and pantries.

Solo empaque los alimentos que no se echan a perder y colóquelos cerca del buzón. Su cartero los llevará a los bancos de alimentos y almacenes benéficos locales.

* Donate items such as pasta, cereal, oatmeal, canola oil, peanut butter and canned goods including beans, fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna in water, meat and sauce. Avoid glass containers.

Saturday, May 12

NALC Thanks Its National Partners











In addition, the contributions of the labor community are vital, such as in sponsoring bags, helping gather volunteers and getting out the message about the food drive.

In the bag

Bags, of course, also contribute mightily to food drive success. If a postal customer receives a specially marked food drive bag in the mail or at the grocery store, preferably paper but also plastic, it often can double or even triple that patron's donation.

But bags can be expensive, and it usually takes the generosity of a local or regional sponsor to help defray the costs. That's why not every postal customer gets a special food drive bag—at least not yet.

Branches are encouraged to search for bag sponsors. As efforts for this year's drive proceed, look for opportunities to show local businesses how they can get involved and sponsor the branch's bags in 2019.

"We all know that as soon as one drive ends, we start planning for the next," Rolando said. "The more you do now, while it's fresh in everyone's minds, the easier it will be next year."

On the web

The food drive continues to have a large online presence for whatever you need:

- For branch food drive coordinators, the Food Drive tool kit at nalc.org/food has all the resources you need, from promotional artwork to forms, thank-you cards to city proclamation templates. It's a great place for com-

ing up with new ways to help promote the drive in your community.

- A public-facing website is at stampoutheungerfooddrive.us. This website debuted last year and has tools specifically for people who are making the food drive donations, including a post office locator, downloadable files, contact information and answers to frequently asked questions.
- Looking to buy lawn signs or pins? The food drive's online merchandise store is your next stop. At stampoutheungerstore.com, anyone can buy a wide range of items related to the food drive, including apparel, such as T-shirts and hats; accessories, such as buttons and pins; and printed items, including posters, banners, yard signs and bumper stickers. Through this website, you can even create an account and track your order's status.
- While you're online, be sure to keep in touch with the food drive's official social media accounts—on Facebook, "like" facebook.com/StampOutHunger, and on Twitter, follow [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger).

If you have any questions about the food drive or need help, get in touch with your branch or regional food drive coordinator. The latest contact list can be found—you guessed it—online at nalc.org/food. **PR**

This year's reminder postcard