

# Food Drive Day is here



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**F**inal arrangements are in progress as coordinators dot their i's and cross their t's for the 26th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive on Saturday, May 12.

Over the 25 national food drives, letter carriers have collected more than 1.6 billion pounds of food, assisted by countless volunteers who help collect and distribute the bags of non-perishable food items customers leave next to their mailboxes on Food Drive Day. The food is distributed to local food pantries and food banks within the same commu-

nities where it was collected.

By now, all food drive reminder postcards should be in post offices and ready for delivery to every address in the country. Branch food drive coordinators are encouraged to connect with fellow employees to ensure that everything is set and ready to go. Local food drive coordinators can contact their regional leaders for help leading up to—and on—Food Drive Day. You can find the list of regional representatives, as well as other resources, in the Food Drive Tool Kit at [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food) and at [stampouthungerfooddrive.us](http://stampouthungerfooddrive.us).

**To help further spread the word, the Postal Service will again distribute special Stamp Out Hunger buttons that letter carriers and other postal employees can wear in the days leading up to the drive.**

Afterward, branch food drive coordinators should return the official results form (found under the “Community Service” section of the website) to NALC Headquarters as soon as possible, but in all cases to arrive at NALC no later than the June 9 deadline for publication in *The Postal Record*.

Photos, video clips and news media items from the food drive should be forwarded to Headquarters as soon as possible. We'd like to get photos, videos and news clips from the day of the food drive, but also of coordinators and em-

ployees getting ready for the drive.

It will help us tremendously if you include a message with your photos that tells us your branch name and number, as well as the name of the city where your photos were taken. If possible, please also include the names of the people in the photo.

If you are interviewed by local news media in your city—TV, radio or newspaper—or if your local stations or papers run stories about the food drive beforehand or afterward, please send an email to [lettercarrierfooddrive@nalc.org](mailto:lettercarrierfooddrive@nalc.org) and let us know the name of the station and the approximate time the story aired. You also can send links to such stories to that email address.

**“Reaching out your hand and giving food is a small gesture, but will guarantee someone in need will be provided a meal.”**

**As we all know, we never know what tomorrow will bring and we never know if we will be in need, so that is why we help others and that is why the National Association of Letter Carriers does the Stamp Out Hunger food drive.** As Mother Teresa stated, “Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same—with charity, you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead.” Reaching out your hand and giving food is a small gesture, but will guarantee someone in need will be provided a meal.

**As I said before, visit [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food) for last-minute ideas** to help make this year's food drive a similar success. There, you'll also find a plethora of resources, plus links to the coordinators' manual, support documents, graphics, videos and answers to frequently asked questions.

I thank everyone for their hard work and wish each of you a successful drive.

This year's reminder postcards are headed for customers' mailboxes a few days before the Stamp Out Hunger food drive.