

Food Drive Day is nigh

As this issue of *The Postal Record* reaches you, the 26th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is mere days away. This one-day food drive, the nation's largest, provides letter carriers, other postal employees and thousands of volunteers across the nation the opportunity to help feed the many hungry residents in their local communities.

"Letter carriers touch every residential and business address in this country at least six days a week," NALC President Fredric Rolando said, "so we are well aware of the staggering numbers of people in need."

Hunger affects 1 in 6 Americans, many of them in households with at least one person working. Among those most at risk are millions of children, elderly and veterans.

"Our goal is to help restock community food banks, pantries and shelters for needy families during the summer, when the need is particularly acute because most school food programs are not available," Rolando said.

Last year's drive collected more than 72 million pounds of non-perishable food that generous postal customers left in bags next to their mailboxes that morning. It was the 14th consecutive year that letter carriers have collected more than 70 million pounds of food, and it brought the drive's grand total to nearly 1.6 billion pounds of food collected.

The drive is held each year on the second Saturday in May, and so Saturday, May 12, has for months been circled on the calendars of hunger-relief advocates who have watched as food supplies donated during winter

holiday drives dwindle.

"We are honored to be able to help those in need," Rolando said.

The food drive's national partners are the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valassis and Valpak.

Again this year, award-winning actor Edward James Olmos is the national spokesperson, featured in public service announcements (PSAs) for TV and radio in English and Spanish. He took time away from his filming schedule to record these PSAs for our use.

But he's not the only one we want to see on screen. Be sure to capture the action on Saturday, May 12, by sharing your best photos and video on your Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. You can help us find them by using the hashtag #StampOutHunger and making the posts public. Who knows? Your pictures could get posted on any of NALC's social media accounts on those platforms.

Check us out—simply search for the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts named "StampOutHunger," then share, post and "like" what's there. (See NALC Director of Community Services Christina Vela Davidson's column on page 51 to learn more.)

Branch collection results are due at NALC Headquarters by June 9. The official results form can be found on the Food Drive Tool Kit page at nalc.org, in the "For Food Drive Coordinators" section. If you have questions regarding the food drive, get in touch with Davidson at 202-662-2489 or at cdavidson@nalc.org. **PR**

