

Not too late to participate in food drive

Ah May, a month of marvels. The flowers are blooming, the trees are budding and, as you're reading this, letter carriers are or soon will be creating a mini-miracle with the 27th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 11.

It's never too late to get involved in this NALC effort. If you haven't taken part in the planning, you always can lend a hand on the day itself; ask your branch's food drive coordinator for ways to be of service. And if you can't take part this year, consider helping with the plans for next year's drive. Preparation begins immediately after this year's drive is complete.

Getting our message out

Actor Edward James Olmos returns as the voice of the food drive in public service announcements for TV and radio in both English and Spanish, and our digital media team has been working diligently to get the word out as well. Check out the drive's official social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/StampOutHunger and on Twitter at [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger) (hashtagged #StampOutHunger).

A moving motivational video on the Facebook page features testimonials from food bank workers and beneficiaries about the importance of Stamp Out Hunger. It shows what a difference NALC's drive has made in so many lives.

Despite the late hour, there still is much you can do to help. A handy countdown on the Facebook page offers tips leading up to May 11.

And on the actual day, remember to share photos of your branch's activities—with the branch number, please—on social media, tagged #StampOutHunger. You may also send them by email to social@nalc.org.

Fill a Bag. Help Feed Families.
Llena una bolsa. Ayuda a alimentar a las familias.
Ayuda a alimentar a las familias. Bag healthy nonperishable food items and place by your mailbox for your letter carrier to pick up and deliver to food banks and pantries in your community.
Solo empaque los alimentos que no se echan a perder y colóquelos cerca del buzón. Su carterero los recogerá y los llevará a los bancos de alimentos y almacenes benéficos locales.
Saturday, May 11
NALC Thanks Its National Partners
UFCW, Valassis, Kellogg's, United Way, AFL-CIO, United States Postal Service, UEA, Valpak, Local Food Partners

Why we do what we do

“Almost 50 million Americans are unsure of where their next meal is coming from,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “This includes millions of children, senior citizens and military veterans.”

The food drive is always held on the second Saturday in May, when it can shore up food banks and pantries as holiday donations are dwindling and as students soon will be on summer vacation. It's “a critical time of need for millions who rely on school lunch programs the remainder of the year,” Postmaster General Megan Brennan said in a letter of support this year.

In last year's drive, we collected 71.6 million pounds of nonperishable food items left by generous residents near their mailbox that morning. All told, NALC has brought in more than 1.67 billion pounds of food since the drive began in 1993.

Lee Delgado, a worker at Fairfax, VA's Food for Others featured in the motivational video, summed up what the drive means to food banks this way:

“Thank you. Thank you for what [letter carriers] do for the cause. Continue doing it! Let's get it done every year. Because hunger does not go away. It's not just for the weekend, just for Christmas, just for Thanksgiving. This is an everyday issue.”

Partners

Our work would not be possible without the help of national partners who help carry the load, figuratively and literally: the United States Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Valpak, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valassis, the Kellogg Co. and CVS Health.

In the weeks leading up to the drive, externally, CVS Health will play a public service announcement for the food drive on an in-store radio channel twice an hour in more than 10,000 CVS Health stores throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Internally, Stamp Out Hunger will be featured on the corporate intranet's MyLife channel—available to CVS Health's 240,000 employees—and on TV screens in all corporate hubs.

The fruits of our labor

After it's over comes the fun part: Tallying the totals. Branch collection results are due at NALC Headquarters by June 1. The official results form can be found on the Food Drive Tool Kit page at nalc.org/food, in the “For Food Drive Coordinators” section. If you have questions regarding the drive, get in touch with Christina Vela Davidson, assistant to the president for community services, at 202-662-2489 or at c davidson@nalc.org. **PR**