

# Food drive update

**A**fter much consideration, NALC decided to cancel the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive for 2021 because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to having a traditional Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive the second Saturday in May 2022, just as we have done for nearly three decades.

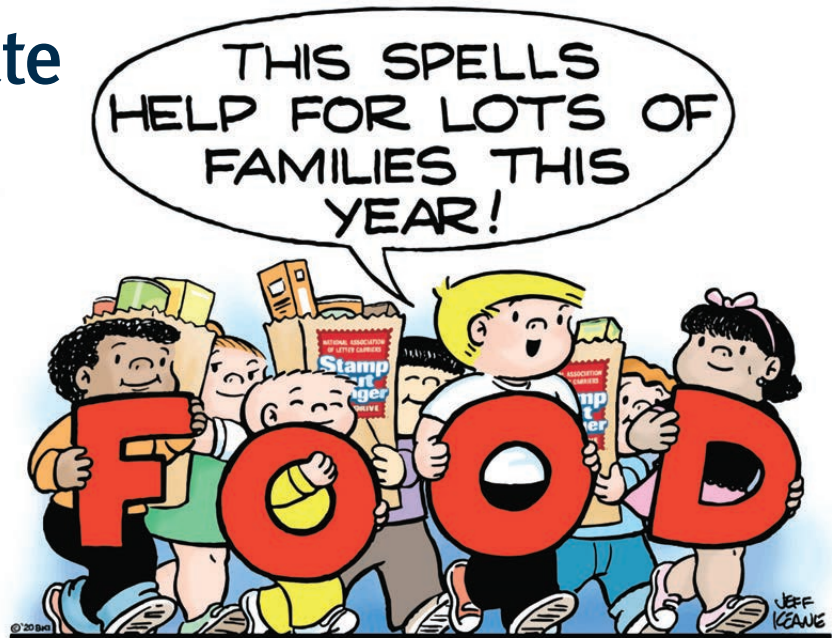
For now, though, our focus turns to NALC's ongoing Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive. Created in June 2020, this effort helps to fulfill the nutritional needs of the 1 in 8 Americans who face food insecurity in communities across the country—including millions of children, elderly and military veterans.

The same pandemic that has forced cancellation of the traditional food drive for both 2020 and 2021 also has increased the problem of hunger because of its economic impact, putting extra pressure on food banks.

"We could not simply stand by and do nothing, because as letter carriers in every neighborhood in the country six and seven days a week, we see the need," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Our goal is to do everything we can to fill the shelves of food pantries."

By visiting [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food), donors can find a food bank in their area to support with an online donation. The site links directly to donation pages on each food bank's website. The same list also provides branches with a convenient means of informing donors in their area about how to locate and donate online to their local food banks.

As with the traditional Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, donations stay in the communities of the donors. Any resident, whether in a big city or suburb, small town or rural area, can donate funds for a local food pantry



## LETTER CARRIERS' DONOR DRIVE

to purchase food and replenish their stocks so local families can put food on their tables. Food banks make good use of cash donations—each dollar can provide up to three meals. The money also gives food pantries the flexibility to buy what they need the most.

Under the donor drive, Assistant to the President for Community Services Christina Vela Davidson noted, NALC Headquarters matches every contribution from the branch's treasury to a local food bank. She asked that branches mail proof of such branch donations (copy of branch check and food bank receipt) to: Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, c/o NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

"With the national online donor effort in place," Rolando said, "and the tools for branches to use available at [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food), every branch can help its local food banks restock their

shelves. And when it's safe to do so," he added, "we look forward to once again holding the largest one-day food drive in the United States. In 2022, letter carriers will be there to hold our traditional Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive and pick up bag upon bag of groceries from the generous customers on our routes."

NALC had considered trying to hold the door-to-door food drive this fall, but after consultation with the Postal Service, decided instead to aim for next May.

The annual spring effort comes at a critical point on food pantry calendars—holiday donations are largely depleted, while the free or reduced-cost meals from school cafeterias generally are not available to needy children over the summer break. The donor drive can help fill this summer's needs. **PR**