



Food drive is this month

Letter carriers are preparing for the big day—the Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger”® Food Drive is Saturday, May 14.

One in 8 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. To fill that need, letter carriers collect food left out by postal patrons in the morning of the second Saturday of each May, a national event first held in 1993.

The timing is crucial: Food pantries can face shortages in spring and summer because holiday donations have been depleted. By summer, when most school meal programs are not available, the pressure on food banks grows even more.

The needs are particularly acute this year, because the same pandemic that led to the annual food drive’s cancellation the past two years for safety reasons also sparked economic dislocation among tens of millions of Americans.

Over the years, active and retired letter carriers, with the help of thousands of volunteers along with NALC’s national partners, have collected a total of 1.82 billion pounds of food. A feature of the food drive is that all the food collected is distributed locally to food banks and other entities that help feed people in the community.

“Letter carriers see the needs in their communities each day, and we respond each May by filling the shelves of local food pantries,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “Letter carriers across the country will, on May 14, once again collect donated food that residents leave by their mailboxes, to help families put food on their tables.”

Part of the success of our food drive is owed to our national partners: the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and

Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association, Vericast, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, the Kellogg Co. and CVS Health. These partners help in many ways, including sponsoring the specially marked donation bags that letter carriers distribute to customers, gathering volunteers and getting out the message about the food drive.

Getting the message out as the big day approaches

NALC Headquarters, branch food drive coordinators and volunteers are using various means of communication to publicize the food drive right up to May 14.

The digital communications team at Headquarters is busy flooding social media with news and reminders. Check out the food drive’s official social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/StampOutHunger and on Twitter at [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger). Use #StampOutHunger to find or send messages about the food drive on either platform.

NALC continues to make use of newspapers, television and radio to get the word out to the public about the food drive, with distribution of news releases as well as individual outreach to media outlets. In addition, branch food drive coordinators are busy with local promotional efforts.

Letter carriers who have questions about the food drive should contact their branch or regional food drive coordinator.

Please note that even though the 2022 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is just weeks away as this magazine goes to press, it is still subject to change or cancellation if necessary to protect the safety and health of those involved,

in light of the pandemic. As we know, the physical food drive, which was not held in 2020 or 2021 for that reason, was replaced in those years by the ongoing virtual donor drive.

With or without the in-person food drive next month, the donor drive will continue virtually. Even if letter carriers pick up food donations door-to-door this year as planned, the online donor drive is a great way to supplement those food donations. For more information about the virtual drive and how to get involved, including tools that make it easy, go to nalc.org/community-service/food-drive/2022-donor-drive.

After the big day

To measure and celebrate our success, we need to know how much food your branch collects from postal customers on May 14. Branch collection results are due to 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. Along with your tally, please send us your photos. For tips on how to submit photos, go to the link above.

Letter carriers with questions about the food drive should contact their branch food coordinator. Food drive coordinators with questions may contact Christina Vela Davidson, assistant to the president for community services, at 202-662-2489 or at c davidson@nalc.org. **PR**