

The Food Pantries

Programs

Food Warehouse Funding: Our Food Warehouse Program provides funding for food to our pantries in the form of spending accounts at the Regional Food Bank. If a member pantry is in danger of running out of food at any time, we will provide emergency funding and deliver food to them within 24 hours.

Food Express: The Food Express is the “life line” to the pantries. The program delivers food ordered by the pantries from the Regional Food Bank to our pantries. Pantries are using far more food than can reasonably be transported by volunteers with vans or small trucks.

Food/Fund Drives: Throughout the year and especially during the holidays, groups sponsor food/fund drives to benefit the hungry in our community. We provide information and guidelines for conducting a successful drive as well as making arrangements for delivery. This program exists to provide food and much needed funding for the pantries.

Holiday Meals: We purchase both food and grocery store gift certificates (restricted from purchasing alcohol or tobacco) to enable those we serve to enjoy special meals for the Holiday Season and give them the dignity of choice.

Infant Needs: Through this project, we purchase infant formula and diapers to keep the youngest of those we serve both fed and dry. Formula and diapers are delivered to pantries once a month or as needed.

Food Shuttle: Our staff and volunteers rescue “day-old” food from local retailers and deliver it to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens. Our goal is to move food quickly from the store to the table.

Member Education: Our staff and volunteers create partnerships with various industries to conduct educational programs to help pantries provide better service to our neighbors in need.

About Us



Working together to feed the hungry in our community, The Food Pantries for the Capital District is a coalition of 53 food pantries located in Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties. Annually, The Food Pantries helps fund, collect, and deliver nearly 2 million pounds of food for our member pantries, which helps provide approximately 2.5 million meals. We also support our member pantries by providing service coordination, education, training, opportunities for networking, and infant needs and holiday meals programs. Established in 1979, The Food Pantries for the Capital District is a 501 (c) (3). For more information on our programs, or how you can help, please visit

www.TheFoodPantries.org

Food & Fund Drives

Ideas & Guidelines



SEFA # 50-00148

CFC # 83501

**Please visit us online at
TheFoodPantries.org**

32 Essex Street
Albany, New York 12206
518.458.1167

*Thank you for helping us
feed the hungry!*

WHAT TO COLLECT:

We are always in need of food items that are low in fat, sugar and sodium.

Suggested Items to Donate

Proteins:

Canned Tuna, Salmon and/or Chicken
Canned or Dried Beans
Peanut Butter

Vegetables and Fruit (canned):

Green Beans
Peas
Mixed Vegetables
Carrots
Peaches, Pineapples, Pears, etc.
Canned 100% Juice

Starches:

Rice/ Pasta (Whole Wheat)
Instant Potatoes
Cereal
Oatmeal
Pancake Mix

Meals:

Soups (Beef Stew, Chicken Noodle)
Mac and Cheese
Canned Pasta Meals (Ravioli, Spaghetti)
Chili

Other:

Condiments
Canned Spaghetti Sauce
Jelly

Personal Hygiene Items:

Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Shampoo/Conditioner
Paper Towels/Tissue
Male/ Female Deodorant
Diapers

Feminine Hygiene Products

Foods to Avoid: Home canned food, outdated food, food without labels, glass jars, or perishables

If you plan on collecting perishable food, please make prior arrangements with our office.



IDEAS FOR SUCCESS:

Choose a theme for your Drive! Is your drive centered around a season or holiday? Are you collecting for a specific group of people? For example, a “School is Out for the Summer” drive could help children that rely on free and reduced priced lunches at school to have balanced meals during the summer months. Items to collect could include peanut butter and jelly. Or are you collecting during the winter with a “Warm-Up Winter” food drive to collect soups and stews?

Set both a beginning and an end date for your drive!

Having a successful drive does not mean it needs to last for a long period of time. One to two weeks is an appropriate amount of time for most food drives.

Advertise your drive!

Make sure that everyone who is participating in your drive knows the dates, what you are collecting, and how the donations will be distributed. Having signs with the start and end date will ensure people will donate on time and be aware that it’s going on.

If you are collecting food, **place collection boxes where they will be visible and accessible.** Be sure that they are well labeled. For the safety of our staff and volunteers, please do not use boxes that weigh more than 50 pounds when filled.

Fund Drives:

Some people may prefer to donate money. We ask that checks not be put in the boxes with food. Please attach a labeled envelope to the side of each box to ensure that checks are not lost in transit.

\$1.00=6.25 pounds of food

\$10.00 = 62.5 pounds of food

Please be sure your collection boxes are kept safe and secure when your offices are closed.



Plan for Delivery:

If you collect a large amount of food (more than would fit in one car) we will be happy to send a truck to pick it up.

Regardless of the size of the donation, we will send our truck to pick up from schools and youth organizations.

If your donation is smaller, we will help you make arrangements to drop off your donation either at our office or at the nearest food pantry.

Please call in advance to arrange for a pick-up. **If it is important that the food be picked up on a specific day or time, please be sure to schedule the pick-up before you begin the drive.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:

fooddrive@thefoodpantries.org