



Dear Friends,

In Greenville County, approximately 15% of the population lives below the poverty line. Many of these people are seniors, veterans on disability, or families living paycheck to paycheck. When a medical or financial problem occurs, it can quickly escalate into a crisis. United Ministries' Emergency Assistance Program can stabilize an individual or family with something most people take for granted: food, life-sustaining medicine, heat, utilities, or rent assistance.

When individuals or families struggle with what is more important – food, medicine or a roof over their heads – United Ministries offers immediate care and crisis intervention. We help to make sure that people do not go without food or medicine and keep their homes. Last year, we provided food to 2,085 families helping to feed 4,268 people.

Our integrated services structure offers an opportunity for individuals to transform their lives. Through education and employment readiness, we help remove the barriers to employability. At Place of Hope, our day shelter, we offer basic services such as showers and laundry, as well as case management to help end homelessness for the people we serve. We offer homeless families with children temporary shelter through our Interfaith Hospitality Network.

You can make a difference and touch the lives of so many people just by having a food drive. At United Ministries, your food donation does more than feed an individual or family: It provides dollars for our other services and programs. When United Ministries does not need to buy food, we can use this money to support our programs that transform a person's life.

Members of our staff are available to help you with your food drive and to share the work we do with your school. Our Food Drive Toolkit is attached with suggestions on how to have a successful food drive. Please take time to read our brochure or visit our website: United-Ministries.org to learn more about why community support is vital to our work and to those in need.

Sincerely,

Tony McDade
Executive Director
United Ministries

FOOD DRIVE TOOLKIT FOR STUDENTS

WWW.UNITED-MINISTRIES.ORG | 864-335-2614

One CAN Transform Lives



United Ministries spends approximately \$40,000 each year purchasing food for people with food insecurity in Greenville County. Your donation helps to ensure that food is available and that no one is turned away because of an empty food pantry. Our Food Drive Toolkit will help make your drive easier and more successful. Be creative and have fun.

2,085

Families received food
last year

82

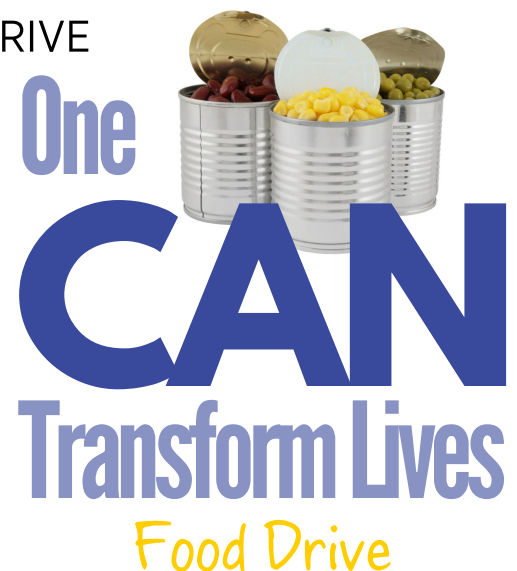
Groups donated food
last year

26

Items in a food bag

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- STEPS TO HOLDING A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE
- IDEAS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE
- NEEDED FOOD ITEMS
- SAMPLE LETTER
- SAMPLE FLYER



STEPS TO HOLDING A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE

Step 1 - Plan it!

Choose a team leader who is passionate and can oversee the event as well as motivate people. Enlist help, choosing a group of individuals who feel strongly about hunger and helping others. Assign specific tasks to individuals within the group (i.e., publicity and promotion, e-mail updates, food collection, food delivery).

Step 2 - Schedule it!

Food drives can last a day, a week or even weeks. The key is to give your participants enough notice so they are prepared to bring in donations. Whether it's serious or fun, your food drive theme should evoke a desire to help. Once your food drive is scheduled, please notify United Ministries so that we can include those dates on our food drive schedule.

Step 3 - Set a Goal!

The most successful food drives include a financial component. That's because some individuals would prefer to simply write a check to United Ministries rather than make a trip to the grocery store for canned goods. Offering the option of either donating cash or canned good is always a good idea. Goal setting is a great motivator and it also provides a sense of accomplishment for all involved. Examples include: filling up X number of boxes, collecting X number of jars of peanut butter.

Step 4 - Promote it!

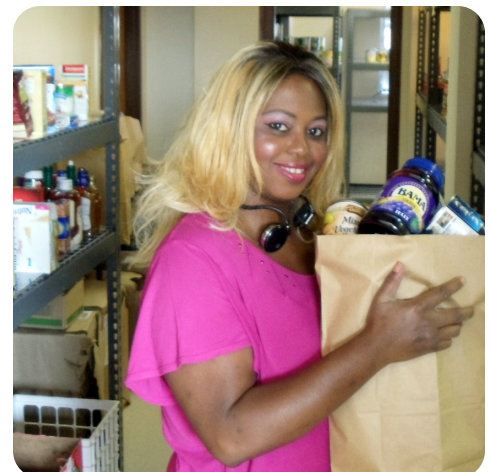
Tailor the food drive flyer we provide in this tool kit to your specific food drive dates. Use the sample email message and social media postings we have provided in this tool kit. Plan to include a notice in your regular newsletter and on your marquee. Publicity is the key to a successful food drive. Take photos and share them however you are able. Please share any photos with United Ministries so that we can share them on our Facebook page.

Step 5 - Collect it!

Place your collection bins or boxes in high-traffic areas where everyone will notice them.

Step 6 - Donate it!

Once your food drive is completed, please contact us to schedule a drop-off or to arrange for United Ministries staff to pick up your donations: fooddonations@united-ministries.org or 864-335-2614.



IDEAS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE

- Kick-off party.
- Communicate the needs; share stats of local poverty or food insecurity.
- Competition between grades or homerooms with pizza party for those who collect the most food.
- If student brings in donation, they can have homework pass for one subject.
- Decorate paper bags to be used to collect food donations, then we'll use those bags to give out food.
- If they meet their goal, the principal will wear pajamas to school or similar idea.
- For every \$100 or 100 pounds of food collected the principal goes to jail for 15 minutes.
- Challenge another school to a food fight.
- Students can ask neighbors and relatives to donate.
- Award for student who collects most food.
- If students meet goal they receive an extra 30 minutes of recess.
- CANstruction: After the food has been collected, build structures using cans. Judge each and reward winning group.
- Measure distance around hallways and display points of measurement based on food collection goal.
- Share photos and goals on social media.



NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

CANNED FRUIT

BEEF STEW

CANNED TUNA

MACKEREL

TRETT

RAMEN NOODLES

POWDERED MILK

PEANUT BUTTER

MAC & CHEESE

CANNED POTATOES

CANNED GREEN BEANS

CANNED GREEN PEAS

CANNED SOUP

CEREAL

CANNED CORN

DRIED BEANS

RICE

CANNED PASTA

GRITS

SALTINES

SAMPLE LETTER

Subject Line: One CAN Transform Lives

Dear friends of [Your School],

Our [school/group] is holding a food drive to benefit the food pantry of United Ministries from [insert starting date] to [insert ending date].

United Ministries' Emergency Assistance Program provides hopeful options, strong encouragement and a measure of stability to people finding themselves in financial crisis. The program provides financial assistance with rent, utilities, and life-sustaining medications. The program also provides food through a food pantry.

Our goal is to raise [insert number of pounds] and [insert number of dollars] for United Ministries. Your investment in United Ministries gives people right here in our community a hand-up when they most need it. Your generosity makes the difference. Last year, Emergency Assistance was able to provide help to nearly 3,000 families in the Greenville community.

Many of these families benefited from the food pantry which provides a bag of food that contains three days' worth of nutritional meals.

Your gift is extremely important because it offers immediate resources to those in the Greenville community who need it most. Can you commit to 25 cans of food or a gift of \$25?

We are grateful for your help. Should you have any questions, please contact [insert name and contact information].



United Ministries

Transforming Lives Together



Please help us meet our goal!
Bring donations to:



One
CAN
Transform Lives
Food Drive