



neighbors, inc.

Food and Fund Drive Kit



A quick and easy guide
for raising food and
funds to fight hunger



Thank you!

Anybody can organize a food drive: businesses, churches, Boy and Girl Scout troops, schools, individuals, even neighborhoods! We're so grateful you're interested in holding a food and fund drive for Neighbors, Inc.

Last year, Neighbors distributed nearly 980,000 lbs. of food to 14,131 individuals through the food shelf and 43,437 individuals through the bakery shelf and fresh foods table.



How Neighbors can help

Your support is important to Neighbors and we want to help with your drive in any way that we can. Let us know if you need any of the following by calling 651.306.2149:

- Sturdy boxes and barrels to collect food in
- Posters, flyers and brochures to help promote your drive and provide information about Neighbors
- Speakers to help generate enthusiasm for your drive by sharing information about how hunger impacts our community

Quick facts about Neighbors

- Neighbors, Inc. was founded in 1972 by a group of area churches.
- We are a non-profit social service agency.
- We serve South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake and Lilydale.
- Volunteers do the majority of the work, with the support of about 15 staff members.
- In 2016, we gave out nearly one million pounds of food.
- Of the people we serve, nearly 39 percent are children.

A food drive in five simple steps

Step 1: Set a goal

How much food would you like to raise? Neighbors gives about 110 pounds of food to a family of three when they visit the food shelf — that's a total of about 60,000 pounds of food distributed each month.

Step 2: Promote your drive

Get the word out and create excitement about your food drive. Share information via email, social media sites, posters, and written and verbal announcements to reach out to potential donors. Give participants a shopping bag with a list of suggested food items attached and arrange to pick up the bag a week later.

The more fun a food drive is for participants, the more successful it will be. Friendly competitions really seem to bring the canned goods rolling in! For example, a local church raised food and funds by having members “vote” by donation for one of the church’s three pastors. The pastor with the most donations then had to do a fun dare.

Be sure to provide regular progress reports throughout your drive, along with facts about hunger. You can find some statistics, a progress thermometer and information later in this kit and on the Neighbors website.

Step 3: Collect food and funds

Decide when and for how long your food and fund drive will run. Put signs, posters and collection boxes or barrels in high-traffic areas. Distribute paper grocery bags with our most-needed items list — which can be found on the Neighbors website — already stapled on the bags. Make sure you have enough boxes or containers to collect the food. Assign someone to check the collection sites on a regular basis to see if boxes and barrels are full and need replacing. If raising funds, appoint a treasurer to collect and safeguard the donations. You may also need an area to store food until it can be delivered to Neighbors.



Members of the South St. Paul Mayor's Youth Task Force point donors toward the food drive at Knowlan's Fresh Foods in March 2013.

Stay up-to-date

We send out a monthly email newsletter that lists our most-needed food shelf items.

To subscribe, email:
scott@neighborsmn.org.

You can also like us on Facebook and find us on Twitter.

Step 4: Get the food to Neighbors

Neighbors accepts food donations Monday through Friday between 8:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., and 1 and 4:30 p.m. Our delivery door is located on the north side of the building's lower level. Bringing a large donation? Call ahead and we'll be sure to helpers ready to unload! To contact the food shelf directly, call 651.306.2150.

Neighbors has limited staff and vehicles. Most of the time, they are engaged in food rescue from area grocery stores and are not available for extra pick-ups. Delivering your donation directly to Neighbors helps us maintain efficiency and keep costs down, which allows us to serve a greater number of families in need. However, if you are unable to deliver the food yourself, please give us a call at (651) 306-2143.



To drum up enthusiasm for its 2014 March FoodShare drive, congregants and Pastor Leesa Soderlind engaged in a challenge. If the congregation could raise 10,000 pounds of food, these ladies agreed to color their hair.

Step 5: Celebrate your success

We couldn't do what we do without people like you. After Neighbors receives your donation, we will send you a note that includes the total number of pounds and the dollar amount of donations. We encourage you to share this information with those who participated in your drive. Not only will it provide people with a better sense of what they were able to help accomplish, but celebrating success could inspire others to become involved as well!

Tips from the Task Force

In 2013, the South St. Paul Mayor's Youth Task Force oversaw the city's effort to raise food and funds for the annual Minnesota FoodShare campaign. Altogether, the city raised 44,501 pounds of food. Here are some of their tips for a successful food and fund drive:

- Have fun with the campaign.
- Link your drive with a fun event happening in the community. For example, at SpringCon, an annual comic book convention, attendees received \$1 off admission if they brought a canned good.
- Get the news out any way you can — Facebook, newsletters, email, word-of-mouth. "When they're tired of hearing from you, then you've done your job," said Deb Griffith, community affairs liaison for South St. Paul.

Other ways to help

Service learning projects: educate yourself while helping others

Service learning combines classroom teaching with community service in hopes of creating powerful hands-on learning while also making a difference in the community. Service learning projects are perfect for classrooms, church groups, scout groups, civic organization and workplaces.

Neighbors' staff can present on a variety of topics, from hunger and poverty to services at Neighbors. We can offer tours of the building, videos and games for kids. Afterward, volunteers are engaged in a service project related to the topic: food drives, toy drives, food and clothing donation sorting, and more. At the end of the project, Neighbors can lead the group in reflecting on their experience and understanding their role in the bigger picture.



For more information, contact Mandy, director of volunteer programs, at 651.306.2154.

Holiday giving: organize a toy and clothing drive

In December 2016, Neighbors provided gifts to about 700 low-income families through our Love Your Neighbor (LYN) Holiday Program. To learn more, visit our website or email holiday@neighborsmn.org.

Volunteer

Neighbors relies on volunteers — in 2016, more than 1,400 people shared more than 44,000 hours of their time and talents to help the organization work to reduce poverty, promote self-sufficiency and build community. Learn more about the opportunities available and submit a Volunteer Interest Form at www.neighborsmn.org.



neighbors, inc.

By the Numbers

2016



nearly
1 MILLION
pounds of food
distributed

14,131 individuals were served in the food shelf;
43,437 used the bakery shelf/fresh foods table



1,582
people received
clothing vouchers



45,165
summer meals
for kids

2,122 got rides to medical appointments



3,968 daily check-in calls were made



705 families
received holiday
assistance



nearly 39 percent of
Neighbors' clients were
under the age of 18



1,482 total volunteers

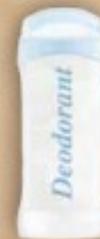
contributed

44,550 volunteer hours



NEIGHBORS' FOOD SHELF

10 MOST WANTED



neighbors, inc.

222 Grand Ave. W.
South St. Paul, MN 55075
neighborsmn.org
651-455-5000

Giving feels good!

SPREAD

the word!



Donate food or funds to
support Neighbors' food shelf.



neighbors, inc.

222 Grand Ave. W.
South St. Paul, MN 55075
neighborsmn.org
651-455-5000

Giving feels good!



The price of one latte can feed one person for two days.

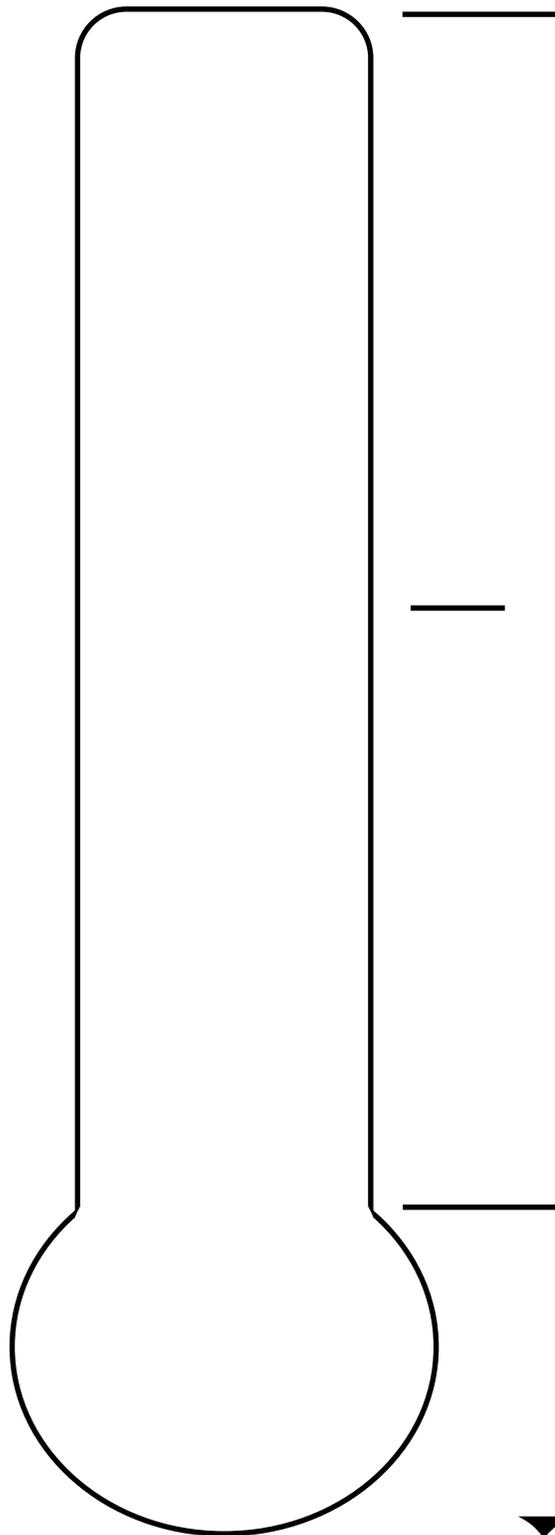
Donate your daily coffee money to help the hungry in northern Dakota County

- About 39% of our clients are children under age 18
- In 2016, Neighbors' food shelf provided 704,000 lbs. of food to more than 14,000 people in northern Dakota County



Neighbors Food Shelf
222 Grand Ave. W.
South St. Paul, MN 55075
neighborsmn.org
651-455-5000

Food/Fund Drive Progress



Neighbors, Inc.
222 Grand Avenue West
South St. Paul, 55075
neighborsmn.org