



neighborsinc.

Food & Fund Drive Kit



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

Neighbors' Mission: *Providing opportunities for our neighbors to thrive by connecting volunteers to people in need.*

Organizing a food drive or benefit event for Neighbors, Inc. is something anyone can do. Individuals, businesses, churches, Boy and Girl Scout troops, schools, and even neighborhoods can all contribute to this cause. We appreciate your interest in supporting our mission.

We continue to see increasing demand for food assistance. From 2021 to 2022, there was a 68% increase in individuals who visited our food shelf.

Quick Facts about Neighbors

**Neighbors, Inc. was founded in 1972,
by a group of area churches.**

**We are a non-profit
social service
agency serving the
communities of
South St. Paul, West
St. Paul, Inver Grove
Heights, Mendota
Heights, Mendota,
Sunfish Lake, and
Lilydale.**

Our program areas of focus

- Hunger Relief
- Essential Needs
- Clothing
- Household Goods
- Financial Counselling and Education.

**In 2022, we distributed
797,565 pounds of food.**



**In the last year, the
average amount of food
distributed per person
was 20.3 pounds per visit.
That works out to be a
total of about 75,115
pounds of food distributed
each month.**

Neighbors Can Help You.

Your support is important to Neighbors, and we want to help. Let us know if you need any of the following by calling 651-306-2149:

- For food donations, Neighbors can supply:
 - Sturdy boxes and barrels to collect food in.
 - Posters, flyers, and brochures to help promote your drive.
 - Information about Neighbors.
 - Speakers to help generate enthusiasm for your drive by sharing information about how hunger impacts our community.
- For fund donations: give us a call to sign up for a giving campaign on our website.
- Events:
 - Posters, signs, logos, etc.

Simple Steps to a Successful Drive/Event

Step 1: Start a Committee

Gather your friends, family, and co-workers to help. It's also a great idea to notify Neighbors of your event during this stage. We'd love to offer our help and support.

Step 2: Brainstorm

Before getting started, you may want to consider items like the event theme, location, food, logistics, programming, etc. Invite others to help with ideas. Choose something you enjoy. Have fun! The more fun a food drive is for participants, the more successful it will be. Friendly competitions and themes really seem to bring the donations rolling in! Here are a couple of great food drive themes:

- CANstruction (construct an item out of cans)
- Dominos (line up your donations and film them tumbling over)
- Advent Calendar (a new item donated daily)
- Christmas in July (The summer months are equally as difficult)

Step 3: Develop a Timeline

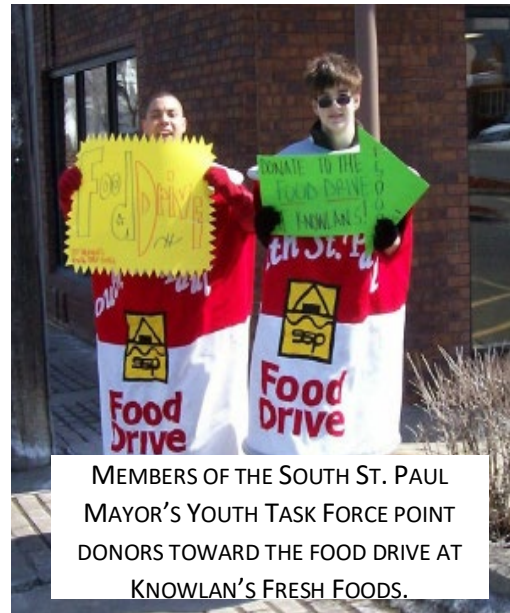
A good plan can make the event even more successful! Identify tasks and delegate responsibility. Set deadlines for completion dates of tasks. Check in regularly with committee members.

Step 4: Set a Goal

How much would you like to raise? Specific goals are more likely to be achieved.

Step 5: Promote Your Drive

- Spread the word far and wide! Utilize emails, social media, posters, community resources, and announcements to reach potential donors and create enthusiasm for your food drive.
- Connect your drive to a local event for added excitement. Offer incentives, like discounts for event attendees who bring donations.
- Keep everyone updated with progress reports and hunger statistics. Neighbors can assist by sharing information online and on-site. Capture moments with photos and track donations and volunteer hours for your records.



Step 6: Collect Food or Funds

To execute a successful drive, start by deciding how long you want the drive to run for. Next, place collection points in busy areas with clear signage. Assign someone to regularly check and replace the containers as needed. To manage the funds collected, designate a treasurer, and organize storage for the donated items.

Step 7: Get the Food to Neighbors

Neighbors accepts food donations Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 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 have helpers ready to unload! We can also pre-arrange building tours with your group, which is a nice way to understand donations' role at Neighbors. To contact the food shelf directly, call 651-306-2150 or email cody@neighborsmn.org.

Delivering your donations to Neighbors is appreciated. If unable to deliver, call us at 651-306-2149. Check neighborsmn.org for holiday closures.



Boy Scout Troop #248 dropping off donations from their annual food drive.

Step 8: Celebrate Your Success

After your donation reaches Neighbors, we'll send you a note detailing the total pounds and dollars donated. Share this achievement with your team and inspire others! Not only will it provide people with a better sense of what they were able to accomplish, but celebrating success could inspire others to become involved as well! If you post on social media, don't forget to tag us—we love celebrating with you!

Keep Connected

We send out a monthly email newsletter that lists volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and current happenings at Neighbors. We also have a printed newsletter with information about all our programs and events. To be added to either mailing list, please send an email to:

info@neighborsmn.org.

You can also like us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn. Interested in taking your involvement to the next level? We'd love for you to join us as a volunteer. Neighbors offers a variety of individual and group volunteer opportunities. For more information about what opportunity fits your schedule best, visit our website at: <https://www.neighborsmn.org/volunteer/>



neighborsinc.

Most Wanted Food Shelf Items



222 Grand Ave. W.
South St. Paul

651-455-5000
neighborsmn.org



neighborsinc.

FOOD DRIVE WISH LIST



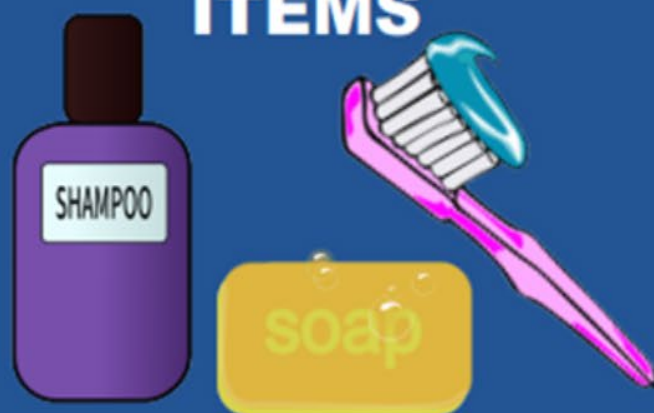
BREAKFAST ITEMS



COOKING & BAKING



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS



SUPERFOODS



BABY DIAPERS & FEMININE CARE



Donations can be dropped off at the Neighbors, Inc. Food Shelf Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you have a large group collecting donation items, please contact us to make drop-off arrangements.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Food/Fund Drive Progress



neighborsinc.

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