



## Neighborhood Food Drive OVERVIEW

Impact our community in a big way by encouraging your neighborhood to provide food for needy families! Make it easy for them by picking up the food from their driveways or holding a “drop-off get-together” at a central place like the playground or pool. A head start of 1-2 weeks is advisable.

### ***GREAT REASONS TO HOLD A FOOD DRIVE!***

- A small effort can produce a large result.
- It's a great way to meet the neighbors you haven't met in order to build relationships, while serving the community together.
- It's a ministry opportunity ideal for singles, groups, families, and children.
- It is easy to do, not overwhelming for any one person, with limited and flexible time commitment.
- It is a great way to help your neighbors serve others in need. Most people want to, but don't know what or how to donate. You'll make it simple for them.
- The Gospel can go with you across the relational bridges built with others in your neighborhood simply because you have a legitimate and excellent reason to “knock on their door.” As relationships develop, friendships form. Through friendships, the love and hope of Jesus Christ can be introduced.

***WHAT IS THE REAL LIFE CENTER?*** The Real Life Center is a non-profit organization, designed to provide help for hurting people by giving them a means to cope with the financial, emotional, and spiritual hardships of life. Assessments are conducted with trained counselors who will listen to concerns and help develop a plan to assist individuals and families by directing them to resources specific to their situation. This plan involves connecting them to resources within the Real Life Center as well as other sources in the community. The Real Life Center exists to help those facing life's unanticipated challenges by offering hope, guidance and encouragement. We commit to walk alongside those we help through the trials of life.

**RLC Food Pantry** - Provides both perishable and non-perishable food items as well paper goods.

# Neighborhood Food Drive

## Step by Step Procedures

### **Brief Overview**

1. *Distribute Fliers (1-3 weeks prior to drive)*
2. *Put Yard Signs in neighborhood (optional)*
3. *Collect Food Donations (day of the drive)*
4. *Deliver Food Donations to Real Life Center*

### **Detailed Overview**

#### **1. DISTRIBUTE FLYERS (1-3 Weeks Prior to Drive)**

A suggested flyer is included in this packet. Feel free to edit as needed. You may want to include your designated food pick-up date / time or include a contact name and phone number so people can call with questions or to volunteer to help.

You will need to make as many copies of the flyer as you have homes in the neighborhood.

**FLYER DISTRIBUTION:** Assign streets or sections of your neighborhood to your group of volunteers. Approximately 7-10 days ahead of the collection, distribute the bags with the flyer / food list attached throughout the neighborhood, placing them on front porches, tucking them into the front door or other visible place. Be respectful of your neighbors -- don't tape to their doors. (Mailboxes should also not be used—it is against federal law!) It would be fantastic if you were able to knock on doors and make personal contact. If you have a neighborhood email list and it is permissible to use it, send out a notice that way as well.

#### **GROCERY BAGS:**

- Option A**     **Have contributors use their own grocery bags**  
**Option B**     **Provide a grocery bag to contributor (from local grocery store)**

#### ***If option B, read the following suggestions.***

If you choose to use grocery bags, ask for donations of paper grocery bags from local grocery stores. It is always helpful to identify yourself and what church you're representing. At the service counter, ask for a customer service manager or store manager. Explain that the bags will be used for a food drive conducted by your church members to the Real Life Center food pantry. A donations request letter is available for your benefit from the Real LIFE Center at 770-631-9334.

Be sensitive to the fact that these bags are somewhat costly to the stores. They may not wish to give a large quantity at one time. If you need a lot, try to get bags from several different stores. *Be sure to thank the store manager!*

#### **2. PUT YARD SIGNS IN NEIGHBORHOOD (One week prior)**

We recommend that you put a few yard signs out in your neighborhood to remind and give information to your neighbors of the upcoming Neighborhood Food Drive.

### **3. COLLECT FOOD DONATIONS (Day of Drive)**

There are a couple of options regarding food donations collection.

- a. Arrange for a central drop off location in your neighborhood (i.e. community pool, clubhouse, tennis courts, your house, etc). Consider having refreshments available (coffee and donuts, lemonade, etc.) which will tend to encourage people to stay and converse. In addition to serving the community, this could be a good opportunity for neighbors to meet each other, thus developing a greater sense of community.

Try to arrange for a drop off time that is convenient for as many neighbors as possible who may want to donate groceries (i.e. 10am – 12pm).

**NOTE:** This is the preferred method of collection if you desire to meet neighbors.

- b. Arrange to drive through neighborhood and pick up grocery donations left for you on driveways and/or porches. Be sure to leave (or mail) a thank you note to each person giving. You can always print a general thank you note and make multiple copies to be given out.

Tax receipts can be provided by contacting the Real Life Center, 770-637-9334.

If you decide to pick up donations from driveways, be sure to include this information and instructions on the flyer.

**NOTE:** This is the preferred method of collection if your priority is to collect the most amount of food possible.

### **4. DELIVER FOOD TO CO-OP (Preferably, Same Day as Drive)**

Take food to the Real Life Center. The center will be open for donation drop-off from 9:00am – 12:00pm on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The food can also be dropped off any time they are open: Mon-Thu, 9am-12pm & Thu, 5pm-7pm.



[www.dogwoodchurch.org](http://www.dogwoodchurch.org)

## **Neighborhood Food Drive** **Benefiting the Real Life Center Food Pantry** **Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00pm**

We will be collecting food to help restock the food pantry at the Real Life Center. Due to the state of the economy, the food pantry has been helping so many families that they are quickly running out of food! We would greatly appreciate your support with this.

### **Food Items Needed**

canned tuna & chicken	macaroni & cheese	boxed potatoes
peanut butter	cereal	powdered milk
cooking oil	pasta & rice	baby food
canned vegetables	spaghetti sauce	fruit juice (plastic jars)
canned fruit	jell-0/pudding	hot cereal/granola bars
tomato products	beef stew/chili	toilet paper toiletries: soap,
dry beans	jelly(plastic jars only)	crackers/graham crackers
shampoo	laundry detergent	diapers, esp. larger sizes
deodorant		

### **Donation Instructions**

*(Food Drive Coordinator – Circle One)*

Drop off food donations on (Day, Date, Time) at \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Leave food donations in your driveway on (Day, Date, Time. We'll pick up!

***Thank you for your generosity!***



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**Neighborhood Food Drive**  
**Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Drop Donations at Clubhouse**  
**9am – 12pm**

**More Info?**  
**See flyer or Call 678-XXX-XXXX**

# Neighborhood Food Drive

Dear Neighbors,

The youth group from Rolling Hills Baptist Church is collecting food to help restock the food pantry at the Real Life Center. Due to the state of the economy, the food pantry has been helping so many families that they are quickly running out of food! We would greatly appreciate your support with this. If you would like to participate, just place any non-perishable food item in the bag provided and leave it on your front porch on Sunday, October 18th. The youth group will stop by that morning to pick it up. Thank you for your generosity!

## Items Most Needed

Crackers/Graham Crackers	Canned Spaghetti
Sauce	
Laundry Soap/Dish Soap	Baked Beans/Pork &
Beans	
Boxed Potatoes/Stuffing	Cereal/Granola Bars
Jelly (Plastic jars only)	Dry Beans
64oz Bottled Juice (Plastic only)	Peanut Butter

### More about Real Life Center:

The Real Life Center exists to help individuals and families from all walks of life that are facing life's unanticipated challenges. We want to make a difference in our community by walking alongside those that are going through a tough time! On average, we distribute over 60,000 lbs. of food items per year to families in Fayette County.

*Our programs include:*

- \*General Assessment Counseling*
- \*Financial Assistance*
- \*Food*
- \*Auto Repair*
- \*Daily Bread*

- \*Financial Counseling*
- \*Career Help*
- \*Clothing*
- \*Furniture/Household Goods*
- \*Extensive Network & Referral*

We exist because of your support. If you are interested in sponsorship, donating, volunteering or in need of our services, please contact us at: