



*Neighbors Serving Neighbors*

# Starting a Neighborhood Donation Group

## Why hold a food drive? Isn't money better?

- Monetary donations go much further when we purchase food at the Greater Boston Food Bank **BUT**
- Donations are our primary source for specialty items such as Gluten Free foods, peanut butter alternatives and milk alternatives. Arlington EATS typically relies on community donations of food for about 30% of our food supply! **Food drives help us provide important items and a greater variety to our guests!**

## Did you know?

**1 in 8 people in Massachusetts are food insecure**  
**10% of people living in Arlington are at risk of food insecurity**

## Things to think about when planning your Monthly Neighborhood Food Drive!

### Invite your neighbors to be a part of your monthly food drive

- Come up with a great name for your group! We already have Good Teel, Good Crosby, Kelwyn Cares, and Pineapple Pickup!
- Get the word out through flyers, neighborhood social media or word of mouth
  - Collect e-mails of interested neighbors so you can remind them each month and let them know Spotlight Items!
- Bonus: create re-usable bags with the group name as a way to a) leave food in for your pickup and b) as a reminder at the grocery store to pick up a few items!

### Drop off OR Pick up?

- Ask people to drop off items in a specific location over the course of a set period of time **OR**
- Ask people to leave items on their front porch for you to pick up on a certain day each month (if you do this, be ready to ask for help doing pick ups if the group grows too big!)
- Kids are great at helping do pick-ups and filling the car!



### Advertise our current most needed items!

- Ask people to stick to our current list of needs: we are currently doing all home delivery and people are choosing from a pre-set list of foods.
- Check for our monthly "Spotlight Items" (on FB or our newsletter)
- Want a theme? See our suggestions ➡

### Reminders:

- Even a couple of our "spotlight items" from each house really adds up!
- Items need to be "in date"!
- Please donate standard sizes (no snack / jumbo sizes)
- No perishable items
- No soda or sports drinks

### Collect your donations and drop them off!

- Donation hours are: on Tuesdays between 1 and 4 at the Market located in Saint John's Church (74 Pleasant St - donation drop on Lombard St).

**Still have questions? Plan on delivering multiple car loads? Want to know the spotlight items of the month?**

**Drop us a line! [sdorson@arlingtoneats.org](mailto:sdorson@arlingtoneats.org) or 339-707-6757 x1003**

### HIGH DEMAND ITEMS:

- Cereal (especially Cheerios!)
- Shelf stable soup
- Peanut butter alternatives
- Snacks
- Soy sauce
- Shelf stable soy milk/ almond milk
- Laundry detergent
- Personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush
- Incontinence products & diapers (larger sizes are more in demand)
- Olive/canola oil

### THEME IDEAS

- **Rise and Shine**  
(breakfast items: cereal, oatmeal, coffee, tea, cocoa)
- **Winter Warm Up**  
(soup, cocoa, tea)
- **Snack Attack**  
(granola bars, pretzels, nuts, crackers)
- **Food for All**  
(food alternatives – almond/sun butter, soy/almond milk, gluten free products)