



Neighbors Serving Neighbors

One-Time Food Drive Planning Sheet

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 food drive!

Plan when and for how long.

- Will it be a one day event or over the course of a week? **OR**
- Combine it with an event (block party, school concert etc).

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



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:

- Items need to be "in date"!
- Standard sizes are best (no snack / jumbo sizes)
- No perishable items.
- No soda or sports drinks

Collect your donations and drop off on Tuesdays at our contactless drop off 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
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)