



January Harvest

There is often a post-holiday slump in food donations. Encourage families to pick up some extra non-perishable food items during their holiday shopping. Then kick-off the New Year with a food drive to collect those extras.

Here's Your Project:

Do a post-holiday food drive when there is often a slump in donations.

Supply List:

- Poster board or construction paper for posters or fliers
- A large, sturdy box
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons, glitter, etc. for decorating your posters, fliers, and donation box

How To Do It!

1. Contact your local social services or local soup kitchen and tell them you will be doing a food drive for nonperishable items. Ask them what their needs are and how and when to deliver the donation.
2. Make posters and fliers advertising your food drive encouraging families to buy an extra can or box of food as they do their holiday shopping. Include when, where, and how people should drop off their donations.
3. Ask local businesses—especially grocery stores—if they would display your posters and fliers.
4. Decorate and setup your collection box.
5. Collect those cans!
6. Sort through the donations. Make sure nothing has expired. Count your grand total of items.
7. Drop off your donation with the local social service or soup kitchen.
8. Thank everyone who helped you and tell them the grand total of items donated!



Interesting Fact:
In the U.S., 49 million people don't know where their next meal will come from!





Preflection:

Before your volunteer project, ask these questions to be clear about what the goals and expectations are. If you are part of a group, talk about why you are doing a service project. Here are questions to guide your thinking or discussion:

1. Who are we helping?
2. Why are we helping them?
3. How are we helping them?
4. What are we most excited about?
5. What might be tough or challenging about our project?
6. What are everyone's jobs during the project? What do we each have to do?

Reflection:

After your volunteer project, it is important to reflect on the experience. Ask these questions or, if you are part of a group, do the Whip Around reflection activity:

Reflection Questions

1. How did our project help people?
2. What worked well about our project?
3. What can we do better next time?
4. What is our next service project?

Whip Around Ball Toss:

Have your group sit or stand in a circle facing each other. One person will have a ball to toss or roll to someone else in the circle. Each person will have a chance to complete a statement about the project. The person with the ball makes a statement, and then says the name of the person they are tossing the ball to. The next person completes the statement in his or her own way, and so on. When the ball has gone around once, start a new round with a new statement. Try these:

"This project made me happy because _____."

"I didn't know I was good at _____."

"Next time we volunteer, I'd like to help _____."



Resources:

Suggested Reading

Stone Soup by Jon J. Muth

A fresh twist on an old tale, this story celebrates the power of people working together.

Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by Dyanne Di-Salvo Ryan

This is a fictional view of a soup kitchen seen through the eyes of a young boy. He gets to see firsthand the experiences of those that visit the kitchen and those that work there.

Internet Resources

Share Our Strength – For information on childhood hunger and ways to help:

www.strength.org

DMOZ Open Directory Project – A list of organizations fighting hunger:

www.dmoz.org/Society/Philanthropy/Hunger_Relief/

Pledge this project for the **Holiday Gift Campaign** and **Hasbro** will donate a toy through **Toys for Tots** on behalf of each person helping with your project! (Up to 100,000 toys!)

