



## SAMPLE PROJECT IDEA SHEET:

### ORGANIZE A FOOD DRIVE TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Hunger and poverty go hand in hand. Childhood hunger can cause irreversible damage. A lack of proper nutrition can harm a child's mental and physical development. Hungry children have difficulty concentrating and focusing on schoolwork. Impoverished children are more likely to be hospitalized during childhood. Your involvement with a food drive in a community center, office, school or place of worship can help feed the hungry and make a difference in the life of a child.

#### How Lions Clubs Can Help

- Step 1:** Select a food bank, food pantry or organization that accepts donations. Check to see if there are any specific requirements, such as the types of food to collect.
- Step 2:** Select a location for your food drive. Successful places to conduct food drives include schools, office buildings, places of worship or community centers. Secure permission to hold your food drive in these locations.
- Step 3:** Begin planning your food drive. Enlist the aid of your nearby Leo club. Contact friends, co-workers, neighbors to help. Choose a name or theme for your food drive and set a goal for how many cans, or pounds of food you want to collect.
- Step 4:** Promote your food drive. This allows community residents time to choose food from their pantries or buy extra food when grocery shopping.
- Enlist the help of your Club Public Relations Chair to promote this event.
  - Decorate collection containers for the food donations.
  - Place flyers or posters in highly visible places.
  - Use newspaper ads, phone calls and e-mails to promote your food drive.
  - Announce your food drive on your club's Web site.
  - Remember to send follow up reminders.
- Step 5:** Collect food for the hungry. You may wish to hold your food drive for a few consecutive days to get as much food as you can. Enlist the help of Leos and other volunteers. Make sure to clearly mark your donation boxes.
- Step 6:** Deliver your collected food; make arrangements to drop off the donated food to the food bank you selected. Your food can then be distributed to hungry families in need.
- Step 7:** Send "thank you" letters to individuals or organizations who participated and publicize your successful project in the community newspapers. You may want to recap the quantities of food collected and donated.

## What to Donate

Please do not collect fresh fruit and vegetables at food drives. Only collect non-perishable items.

## Food Items Most Needed

- 100% fruit juice (cans/bottles/boxes)
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Chunky soups and beef stew
- Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Powdered milk
- Rice / dry and canned beans
- Pasta and sauce
- “Sugar free,” “low sodium” and “no salt” items
- Tuna and other canned meat

## Share your success!

Please tell us about your project by visiting the Association’s Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org). Just type “Lions Children First” in the search box to find an easy, on-line survey for your convenience.



## Lions Clubs International

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