



Food Drive E-news
September 2010

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Greetings!

Welcome to the 1st issue of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano's Food Drive E-news. The purpose of the quarterly E-news is to keep you informed about food drives, inspire you to help us expand the food collections in our community and engage you further as a Food Bank supporter.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Joan Tomasini at 925-771-1315 or jtomasini@foodbankccs.org.

Food Drives All Year Long

Throughout our two counties, we have 80 locations that host a barrel year-round. There is a library, two schools, two post offices, three grocery stores, some drug stores/pharmacies, a few hospitals, two utilities, a car dealership/service shop, 15 branches of a credit union, many businesses and churches who understand that people need food throughout the year. These locations have located a perfect spot for their employees, clients, friends and the general public to drop off food. The year-round food drives are critical to our ability to meet the needs of the hungry, it keeps us in the eye of our community and provides a successful way to partner with those that want to help us fight hunger. Please visit our website at <http://www.foodbankccs.org/give-help/traditional-food-drive/index.html> to see where our barrels are located. If you would like to host a barrel at a site or know someone that would be interested, please contact Joan Tomasini at 925-771-1315 or jtomasini@foodbankccs.org.

Peanut Butter and Apples

What tastes better together than peanut butter and apple slices and what better way to get children to eat more fruit than to add a spoonful of peanut butter! During the month of September, an anonymous donor has offered to match every new donation of a jar of peanut butter received through a food drive with a matching jar of peanut butter, up to 200 jars. The Food Bank staff will keep an accurate count of peanut butter jars received so that we can maximize this wonderful offer. We will also make sure we pick up and replace our barrels throughout the two counties so we don't miss a jar. You can make an immediate difference by locating a barrel near you and donating a jar of peanut butter. Remember your one jar will turn into two jars, which means you just helped make two families very happy.

Where In The Community Is There a Barrel?

Like the game of years past "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego", we are going to have a contest called "Where in the Community is There a Barrel". Each Food Drive E-news we will have two locations for you to identify - one in each county. The first person to correctly answer where one of the barrels is will win a small gift from the Food Bank. Email jtomasini@foodbankccs.org with your answer. Our barrels love to travel so they will cover our two counties from corner to corner. I hope you enjoy the travels.



Site 1: Solano County



Site 2: Contra Costa County

The Life of a Can

If you have not volunteered sorting food or handed out food at a distribution site, you may not know what happens to a can once it leaves your home. Briefly here are the stages:

- The can comes from your home and travels to a barrel at a host site where it will wait for a trip to the Food Bank.
- When the barrel is full, the host site calls the Food Bank for a pickup.
- A Food Bank truck arrives to take away the full barrel and leave an empty barrel to start a new collection of non-perishable food.
- When the barrel arrives at the Food Bank, the driver weighs the barrel so that a thank you note can be sent to the host site. The barrel is placed on a pallet with 3 other barrels waiting to be sorted by a volunteer group.
- When the volunteer group arrives, all of the food is examined for expiration date (if there is one) and can condition (is it rusty, dented or even open such as a jar of peanut butter). If the can is acceptable, it is placed in a box with similar food (such as canned fish, canned fruit, canned soups, etc).
- The box of similar food is weighed and then placed on a pallet with boxes of the same food category waiting to go out to those in need.
- A pantry that we provide food to will fax us their list of needed foods and our warehouse staff will get their order ready. So now our can of food and its fellow friends will be going to get on a truck and off to a pantry where all of the cans will be divided up into many bags of groceries waiting for the person in need to come through the door of the pantry. The recipient will be so happy to receive this can of food.



Remember, this isn't just a can of food, it is an ingredient to a meal for our hungry neighbors.

How You Can Help

Here are a few ways you can join with us in fighting hunger:

1. Donate food throughout the year at a [year-round food drive](#) site or bring the food directly to the [Concord or Fairfield Food Bank warehouse](#).
2. Ask businesses, churches, schools or anywhere else you think of to [host a food drive](#). It can be year-round or for a shorter period of time to fit their desires. We deliver the barrels (we also have flyers and posters) and pick them up when they are full - our goal is to make the collection easy for the host.
3. If you see a full barrel at a site, give us a call so we can come and pick it up and replace the barrel. The sooner we know it is full, the sooner we can sort the food and get it out to people in need. You can be our eyes and ears.
4. Spread the Word! About our [E-news](#), about our [website](#), about our [blog](#). Spread the word to others to join in our fight against hunger. Spread the word to those that need our help. Let them know we all do what we do so we can be here for those in need.

Welcome AAA



Welcome AAA, a new Holiday Food Drive sponsor! When the AAA corporate offices moved from San Francisco to Walnut Creek, they wanted to make an immediate impact in their new work community. They agreed to be a sponsor of our barrels and the holiday food drive, which helps cover the cost of the barrel wraps, food drive posters and holiday food drive bags (a holiday food drive bag will go out to all Bay Area News Group home subscribers in November). AAA is not only a sponsor, but they "walk the talk" by hosting barrels in their offices during the holidays and volunteering to sort food from food drives at our Concord warehouse throughout the year. Thanks AAA and "On We Go"...

Most Wanted

Every day someone asks what food we need the most. I always answer peanut butter, tuna, juice and cereal. The list goes on but we can never have too much of these top four foods. Now if a child asked what we need, I would ask "what foods do you like and what would you like to share with another child who needs some healthy food?" If they can select the food they like, they will enjoy the shopping experience and understand they are helping other children. When the food comes in it will include mac and cheese, peanut butter, cups of fruit, juice, cereal, tuna and soup - all wonderful choices - I couldn't have done better at the grocery store than this child did.



You're invited

Come and see what the Food Bank is all about at one of our Open House events. You will learn about our different programs and have a chance to volunteer. Drop by between 2:00 and 4:00 pm on September 25 at our new location in Fairfield (2339 Courage Drive, Suite F) or on September 26 at our Concord warehouse (4010 Nelson Avenue). For details go to our [Hunger Action Month website](#) (www.foodbankccs.org/hungeractionmonth).

Keep Up with the Food Bank!

Visit www.foodbankccs.org to sign up to receive these periodic emails!