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## **HOW TO ORGANIZE A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE**

**Thank You for Caring and Sharing**

### **What is The Food Bank for Westchester, Inc.?**

The Food Bank for Westchester's mission is to alleviate hunger and minimize food waste in Westchester County by soliciting, sorting, and distributing a steady supply of surplus good quality food to Westchester's emergency food programs and to fight hunger by engaging, educating and empowering the community. The Food Bank for Westchester is a certified affiliate member of America's Second Harvest and the Food Bank Association of New York State. The Food Bank for Westchester distributes over 5 million pounds of food annually through a member network of 200 community anti-hunger programs.

### **THE FACTS ABOUT HUNGER IN WESTCHESTER**

Over 200,000 people in Westchester County are hungry or at risk of hunger. Thirty six percent are children who due to poor nutrition are at risk of underdevelopment physically, mentally and socially. Thirty percent are seniors having to choose between food and medical care.

### **WHAT IS A FOOD DRIVE?**

A food drive is a concentrated effort to collect non-perishable food within a specific time period. The Food Bank for Westchester will work with you to help make your Food Drive a success.

### **WHY HAVE A FOOD DRIVE?**

**Every pound helps!** Even if your Food Drive collects enough food for only a few families, that's a few more people who will not go to bed hungry this month. Money helps too. For every donated dollar, The Food Bank for Westchester can distribute four dollars worth of food.

### **WHERE DOES THE FOOD GO?**

Your efforts will help us provide food to our 200 member agencies, such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, low-income daycare centers, adult day programs and residential programs.

### **WHOM DO THE AGENCIES HELP TO FEED?**

Agencies help seniors that are living on a fixed income; families who are working but not earning enough to pay for basic needs often forcing them to make a choice between paying the rent and eating. People who are homeless or cannot take care of themselves can get a hot meal at a soup kitchen. **The Food Bank for Westchester** is the crucial link between donated sources of food and charitable programs that feed the hungry people of Westchester.

### **ORGANIZING YOUR FOOD DRIVE**

Running a food drive requires both good organization and promotion. **Establish** the theme and dates of your drive. Food Drives can be as short as **one day** or as long as **two weeks**. The most important part of a Food Drive is the Food Drive Coordinators. They are the ones that will advise people of what you are doing and why you are doing it. If you are a large organization your coordinators will be responsible for making sure that each department or floor is aware and participating. So select the coordinators carefully. Make sure your coordinators are fully informed on why a food drive is being conducted and the procedures. Also make sure that any materials posters, collection bins, sign in forms, hunger information, and handling money procedures are all in place and available to the coordinators.

### **Then Go To IT!**

**Be as creative and innovative as you wish to be. We all win, but especially the children, their families and seniors who may go to bed hungry without your help!**

For further information, to arrange a tour of The Food Bank for Westchester or to volunteer call the Volunteer Coordinator at (914) 923-1100 or fax your request to (914) 923-1198.