



Thank you for your interest in hosting a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul -Cincinnati.

Last year, our food pantries provided food for more than 98,600 people. We could not do that without your generosity. Thank you!

We want you to have the most successful food drive possible. This information packet will guide you through the process, but if you have any questions along the way, contact Patricia Huelseman, Communications Coordinator at (513) 562-8841 ext. 013 or phuelseman@SVDPcincinnati.org.

About St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati:

St. Vincent de Paul brings hope to the frontline of poverty. For more than 145 years, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers have been visiting the homes of neighbors in need to providing, emergency assistance throughout Greater Cincinnati.

St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati website: SVDPcincinnati.org

Social Media Sites:



@SVDPcincinnati

The Edyth and Carl H. Lindner Choice Food Pantry is located at the St. Vincent de Paul Liz Carter Outreach Center in Cincinnati's West End. We also have eight additional neighborhood-based food pantries and several food closets.

Address: 1125 Bank Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214

Phone: (513) 562-8841

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Programs include: Home Visits, the Charitable Pharmacy, Homelessness Prevention, Food & Nutrition, the Bob & Sylvia Rahe Mattress Fund, Clothing & Household Items Support, Reentry Program, the Ozanam Center for Service Learning and additional seasonal programs.

St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati's Mission

Answering Christ's call, we foster hope by providing spiritual, emotional and material assistance on a person-to-person basis to the poor, lonely and forgotten in our community.

Steps for Hosting a Successful Food Drive

1. Start planning – the earlier the better!

Determine the dates of your drive and the materials you'll need beforehand such as food collection bins. You can even form teams to work on publicity, food collection, food delivery, and even a kick-off celebration.

2. Contact the Communications Coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul

Contact the St. Vincent de Paul Communications Coordinator, Patricia Huelseman, at (513) 562-8841, ext. 013 or phuelseman@SVDPCincinnati.org to notify St. Vincent de Paul of your drive. This allows us to update you with our current needs in the food pantry, answer any other questions you may have, and offer support where possible.

3. Learn more about hunger in our community

There is a great need for food assistance in the Greater Cincinnati area, which ranked 6th in the country in child poverty as of 2015 with 70 percent of children living in families who do not earn enough to be self-sufficient. From the Map the Meal Gap Feeding America report, 18.3 percent of people living in Hamilton County are food insecure. For children in Hamilton County, that number rises to 21.1 percent. That is more than 1 in 5 people who do not know where their next meal is coming from! You have the power to help change that.

4. Set a goal

Set a donation goal before you start collecting to give your group something to work towards. This also allows you to share updates on progress towards the goal throughout the duration of the drive.

5. Select a collection location

Plastic bins, barrels, and sturdy cardboard boxes work well for collecting food. Choose a high-traffic area for the location so potential donors get a visual reminder often. If you anticipate having a larger drive, St. Vincent de Paul can provide you with 55-gallon barrels for collection.

6. Publicize the Drive

Inform participants about the drive through social media, newsletters, bulletins, announcements, flyers, memos, e-blasts, and posters. Publicity is the key to a successful drive! Visit our website for templates you can customize for your drive. Find them at: SVDPCincinnati.org/Give_Help/Host_a_Drive/

7. Deliver or schedule a pick-up

Your group may deliver the donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Edyth and Carl H. Lindner Choice Food Pantry Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – noon. The address is 1125 Bank Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214. By delivering the donations yourself, you'll help reduce the cost and resources of our food pantry. Donations can also be scheduled for a pick-up by St. Vincent de Paul. Call 513-562-8841 ext. 013 to schedule a pick-up.

Holding a food drive is great community service opportunity for groups of all kinds, including:

Companies

Churches

Schools

Youth Groups

Sports Teams

Community Groups, such as a Rotary Club

Neighborhood Associations

A devoted group of friends

Some additional ideas for creative food drives:

Follow a theme:

You can encourage your group to focus on a theme for the drive, such as:

Breakfast Items: cereal, oatmeal, cereal bars, instant breakfast, pancake mix, etc.

Kids Favorites: juices, peanut butter, granola bars, macaroni & cheese, Chef Boyardee, cereal

Dinner Time: Pastas, Marinara sauce, canned meats like chicken or tuna, "Meals-in-a-box" such as Tuna Helper, Betty Crocker Helper Complete Meals, etc.

Brown bag lunch:

Encourage your group to bring in a brown bag lunch and donate the money they would have spent on the lunch out.

Neighborhood drive:

Your group can place grocery bags at all houses in your neighborhood. Attached to the empty bags will be a letter asking for donations to be placed in the bag and placed back out on the porch on a requested day. Then your group retrieves all the bags filled with food. See the example neighborhood drive letter in this packet.

Make it a competition:

Use some friendly competition to get your group even more motivated to give. Create teams between classrooms, departments, groups, floors, etc. to see who collects the most food. Make sure the “winners” receive special recognition for their contribution.

Company match:

Inquire if your company can match your food donation to St. Vincent de Paul by setting up a dollar amount donated per pound of food collected. Contact your company’s Human Resources Department about a financial match program.

Raffle:

Solicit your company and/or coworkers for prizes to raffle, such as gift cards, gift baskets, or even an extra PTO day, jeans/casual dress day, or preferred parking at the office. Distribute raffle tickets to donors based on donation amounts or type of items donated.

Pie in the Face!:

Some of the most creative ideas organizations have used to motivate groups to reach donation goals include the boss or principal getting a pie to the face, wearing a silly costume for the day, etc.

All non-perishable food items are needed, but here is a list of our most requested:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Protein (such as tuna or chicken)
- Cereal
- “Meals-in-a-Can,” such as Ravioli, Beef Stew, etc.
- Canned Fruit
- Tomato products

More Ways to Give Back

Volunteer - At St. Vincent de Paul, volunteers are an essential part of all we do. Everyone has talents and abilities that can be used to help others. Whether you are interested in working directly with the people we help or would prefer behind the scenes opportunities, anyone with a caring heart is invited to join us. Our volunteers are regular people of all ages and walks of life. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (513) 562-8841 ext. 211.

Give and Shop at a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store - The items that you no longer have use for could give a local family hope for their future. To donate call (513) 421-CARE (2273) for a free pick-up or drop off items at any of our seven locations across Cincinnati. You can also donate items at any of our more than 30 convenient donation boxes. Plus, when you shop at a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, the proceeds from your purchase benefit our many programs including homelessness prevention and more. Visit www.svdpcincinnati.org/Find_Us/ for a list of store locations.

Attend an Ozanam Center for Service Learning Retreat - The Ozanam Center for Service Learning offers immersion experiences that connect people from diverse backgrounds, engage participants in poverty and justice issues in Cincinnati, and grow a commitment to long-term service and community engagement. For more information, contact the Ozanam Center Coordinator at 513-562-8841 ext. 231 or ozanam@SVDPCincinnati.org

Support Holiday Programs

From October through the New Year, we run numerous drives and special programs for the holiday season all requiring additional volunteer help and support. You can spread Christmas cheer by supporting:

WLWT Coat Drive with St. Vincent de Paul – Keep those in need warm and safe this winter by donating new or gently used winter coats. With convenient coat drop off locations across the Tri-State at Gold Star Chili restaurants, Kemba Credit Union branches and local fire stations, WLWT News 5 and St. Vincent de Paul make it easy to make a difference.

Food From the Heart - You can feed families in need by dropping non-perishable food items in the 'Food From the Heart' donation barrels located at all Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Kroger locations. The items collected will be distributed to families in need by St. Vincent de Paul volunteers in neighborhoods across the Tri-State throughout the holiday season.

Christmas Together - You can make a family's Christmas wishes come true. You will be given a Christmas wish list from a Cincinnati family in need. If you are interested in sponsoring a family this Christmas, please email ChristmasTogether@svdpcincinnati.org.

Angel Toy Program - You can become a Christmas Angel by donating new toys or a monetary



gift to purchase toys for children who would otherwise be forgotten during the holidays. For more information, please call 513-421-HOPE (4673).

Make a Financial Gift - A financial gift of any size can make a big difference in the life of someone in need. Financial gifts allow our staff and volunteers to provide emergency assistance with rent, utilities, transportation, food, medicine, clothing and furniture to those in need. To donate, visit SVDPcincinnati.org/give

Thank You!