



**Thank you so much for your interest in hosting a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul.** Last year, our food pantries put food on the table of more than 110,000 people. We could not do that without the generosity of so many people. 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 Renee Berlon, the St. Vincent de Paul Events & Partnerships Manager at (513) 562-8854 or [rberlon@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:rberlon@svdpcincinnati.org).

**First some facts about St. Vincent de Paul Cincinnati:**

St. Vincent de Paul brings hope to the front line of poverty. For more than 150 years, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers have been visiting the homes of neighbors in need to provide innovative, practical emergency assistance throughout Greater Cincinnati, regardless of race or religious affiliation.

**St. Vincent de Paul Cincinnati website:** [www.SVDPcincinnati.org](http://www.SVDPcincinnati.org)

**Social Media Sites:** facebook.com/svdpcincinnati

twitter.com/svdpcincinnati

youtube.com/svdpcincinnati

The Catino Choice Food Pantry is located at the St. Vincent de Paul Neyer Outreach Center. We also have eight additional neighborhood-based food pantries and several food closets (a smaller selection of foods).

**Neyer Outreach Center:** 1146 Bank Street Cincinnati, OH 45214

**Liz Carter Center (Main Office):** 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.

**Our programs include:** Home Visits, the Charitable Pharmacy, Homelessness Prevention, Food & Nutrition, the Bob & Sylvia Rahe Mattress Fund, Clothing & Household Items Support, Re-Entry Support for Returning Citizens, the Ozanam Center for Service Learning and additional seasonal programs.

**St. Vincent de Paul 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. The more people working on the food drive, the more involvement and enthusiasm you'll have.

### 2. Contact the Events & Partnerships Manager at SVDP

Contact the St. Vincent de Paul Events & Partnerships Manager, Renee Berlon, at (513) 562-8854 or [rberlon@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:rberlon@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 and answer any other questions you may have.

### 3. Learn More about Hunger in Our Community

There is a great need for food assistance in the Greater Cincinnati area. One out of four children here in Cincinnati do not know where their next meal is coming from. You will help change that by supporting the St. Vincent de Paul food pantries that many neighbors in need rely on during tough times. Follow St. Vincent de Paul on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/svdpcincinnati](http://www.facebook.com/svdpcincinnati)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/svdpcincinnati](http://www.twitter.com/svdpcincinnati)) to find the latest information on issues impacting hunger to share with donors. From the Map the Meal Gap Feeding America report, 18.6% of people living in Hamilton County are food insecure. 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 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:

[www.svdpcincinnati.org/Give\\_Help/Host\\_a\\_Drive/](http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/Give_Help/Host_a_Drive/)

### **7. Deliver or Schedule a Pick-Up**

Your group may deliver the donations to the Neyer Outreach Center, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – noon. The address is 1146 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. Contact 513-562-8854 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/](http://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 Service-Learning Coordinator, Maggie Sheehan, at 513-562-8841 ext. 231 or [msheehan@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:msheehan@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:

**5 Cares Coat Drive** – 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, and Youthland Academy locations, 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.

**Adopt-a-Family** - You can make a family's Christmas wishes come true by adopting a family in need. You will be given a Christmas wish list from a Cincinnati family in need. Your presents will be provided to a struggling family in tremendous need this holiday season. If you are interested in sponsoring a family this Christmas, please email [adoptafamily@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:adoptafamily@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.

***Thank You!***