



Emergency
Family
Assistance
Association

Host a food drive for EFAA

HOW-TO GUIDE



We often get asked “What is an easy, but impactful way to help our neighbors in need?” The answer? Host a food drive for EFAA! **Many of our neighbors simply do not have enough food to eat.** In fact, according to Feeding America, over 1 in 10 people in Boulder County experienced food insecurity in 2021.

Organize a food drive with your school, faith community, workplace, or neighborhood. You can make a big difference in your community in just a few easy steps...



CHOOSE YOUR
TEAM



SELECT YOUR
FOOD DRIVE STYLE



CHOOSE A DATE
& CONTACT EFAA



PROMOTE YOUR
FOOD DRIVE



HOST YOUR FOOD
DRIVE!



THANK YOUR
DONORS

GET HELP • DONATE • VOLUNTEER
WWW.EFAA.ORG // 303-442-3042
FOODBANK@EFAA.ORG // Tax ID #84-0454115



6 EASY STEPS TO HOST A FOOD DRIVE



CHOOSE YOUR TEAM

A food drive can be organized by one person, but a team of 3-4 can help share the workload. Once you have organized a team, select a point person to communicate with EFAA's food bank regarding your food drive.



SELECT YOUR FOOD DRIVE STYLE (or get creative!)

	TRADITIONAL (most common)	NEIGHBORHOOD BASED	GROCERY STORE BASED
WHO	Faith institutions, schools and businesses	Volunteers are coordinators for the neighborhood.	Partnership organized between volunteer group and local grocery store.
WHAT	Food drop off food at 1 central location (or several volunteer homes) over a set period of time (can be 1-2 days, 1 week, etc.)	1.) Small group of volunteers flyer/email to inform neighbors 2. Neighbors leave food on front porch during a defined date/time	Volunteers set up outside of store on predetermined date with: 1) list of desired food items for distribution, 2) flyers on EFAA and collect food purchased by shoppers
WHY	Easy to organize and execute	Highly effective and can bring in a larger volume of food because it's easy for people to donate.	Targets a large number of people right at the purchasing source.
CONSIDER THIS	Set your date(s) and distribute a flyer asking those in the group to bring food. Schools and youth groups can incorporate into lesson plans/ community service activities.	Requires more advanced planning and must be widely promoted via flyers, social media, online neighborhood groups in order to gain traction.	Most groceries stores will be happy with extra sales, but these food drives should always be arranged with the store manager in advance.
NOTES	Want to make it fun? Need a team building activity? Make the drive a friendly competition. The classroom or team who donates the most food gets a prize.	1st Congregational Church of Boulder has been using this model for EFAA food drives bringing in over 1,000 pounds per drive! Popularized by Ashland Food Project in Oregon.	Contact EFAA for a list of our past partners, or reach out to stores you know to gauge interest.



CHOOSE A TENTATIVE DATE & CONTACT EFAA FOOD BANK

a. Email foodbank@efaa.org, or call (303) 951-7667 before putting out promotional materials.

b. We want to make sure our food bank will be open and prepared to receive your donations. At least 2 weeks notice is appreciated.



PROMOTE YOUR FOOD DRIVE

a. What to communicate: when, where, what, and how

b. Where to communicate: emails and texts, traditional fliers, and social media (don't forget to tag EFAA!)



c. Want someone to speak to your class, business, or group about EFAA? No problem! An EFAA Ambassador would be happy to come share with your group about EFAA's work, information about food insecurity in Boulder, and how your food drive helps our community. Please email us at outreach@efaa.org to request someone to come present to your group. You can also share this short video with your class, business, or group: www.efaa.org/about/why-it-matters/

d. Create your items list. Our most needed items change on a weekly basis. View here to create your items list. www.efaa.org/donate/food/

e. Not an expert flyer creator? No problem. Download our template here: [Food Drive Flyer Template](#).



HOST YOUR DRIVE!

The day is finally here! Make sure you have:

1) **Boxes or totes to store your donations.**

2) **Arranged transportation of the food from your collection site(s) to EFAA's food bank.**

Our donation drop-off hours are 8:30AM-11:30AM, Monday through Friday. If you drop off during those hours, no appointment is needed. If you absolutely have to drop off during the afternoon, a drop off appointment needs to be scheduled by emailing foodbank@efaa.org.

We understand that not everyone will have the resources to collect and transport the food to us themselves. If this is the case, you can work with EFAA food bank staff to acquire boxes and donation barrels and/ or volunteers to pick up your food drive donations. This must be done in advance of your food drive, however, and the date and time needs to be agreed upon by EFAA staff.



THANK YOUR DONORS

At donation drop off, you will be provided total pounds donated. Whether a social media post, thank you email, letter, or party – celebrate your success! And if you can, please send EFAA pictures of your food drive so we can post on our social media. Please email pictures to foodbank@efaa.org.

ADDITIONAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Host a food drive anytime that works for your group. Holidays? Awesome! Special event? Fantastic! **We need food year-round.**

Consider hosting a Personal Care Items drive.

Since these items aren't covered by SNAP (food stamps) they can be hard to access. This includes: toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, soap, dish soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, and diapers.

Some specifics:

- Food needs to be in unopened packaging with ingredients labeling.
- Non-perishable foods up to one year past the expiration date
- Perishable foods need to be before the expiration date.
- We do not accept clothing, furniture, or household items and appliances

ANY QUESTIONS? REACH OUT!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING WITH YOU.

EMAIL: FOODBANK@EFAA.ORG

PHONE: (303) 951-7667

WHY IT MATTERS

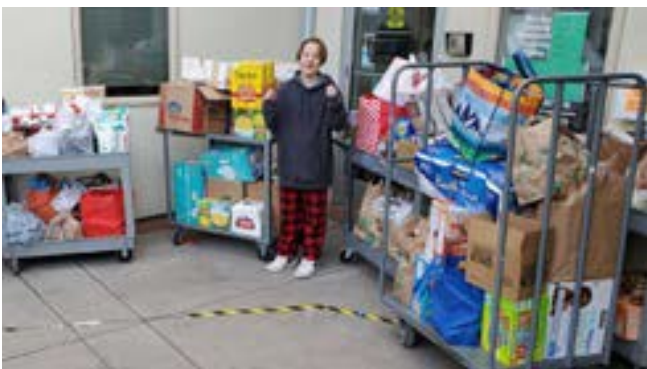
In Boulder County, 11.1% of people, many of whom are children, suffer from food insecurity. Food insecurity is the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate food. **Nearly 5,862, or 1 in 5, students in Boulder Valley public schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch.**

When people lack consistent access to healthy, nutritious food, it can touch many areas of their lives. **Food insecurity can lead to increased risk of illness**—while also making it more difficult to control food-related health conditions. For children, in addition to a higher risk for developing health conditions, the lack of nutritious food during this crucial developmental stage makes them more **likely to struggle in school**, experience developmental impairments, and have more social and behavioral problems.

COVID and the resulting economic downturn reduced people's ability to provide for themselves and their families. Food Banks across the country have seen a **40% increase in need** while at the same time expecting an average of 30% to 40% decrease in food supplied by USDA. Our local food hub, Food Bank of the Rockies, has lost an estimated 14 million federal community meals. That's why **individual and group donations play a crucial role in keeping our food bank stocked throughout the year.**

Support from neighbors like you keep our food bank stocked and prevent hunger in our community.

THANK YOU!



Thank you to Calvary Bible Church School, Ryder, Primrose School at the Flatirons, Tensentric, and all of our amazing food drive donors!



1 million pounds
of food distributed per year



53 percent
of surveyed participants get
over half of their food from
EFAA. For many of these
families, the food bank is a
front door to other important
EFAA services.

“To put it simply:
with EFAA’s food
pantry, I eat.
Without EFAA’s
food pantry, I
wouldn’t eat.”

EFAA participant

READY TO HOST A FOOD DRIVE?
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