



Ottawa Food Bank

Tips & Fun Ideas For Your Food Drive or Event!

Align your event with a pre-existing event or holiday:

Offer a reduction in admission price to guests that bring a donation or if your event is free suggest a donation as entry or have a door prize incentive for those who make a donation. Collect food and/or funds at your holiday party, team-building meetings, or conference.

We hold large food drives at various grocery stores for Thanksgiving, the first Saturday in November, the first Saturday in December, Easter and in June. You are welcome to align your drive or event at the same time of the year.

Everyone likes a challenge:

Make it interesting – try to create a friendly competition with neighbours, co-workers or other businesses/organizations. Challenge them to meet your contribution! Remember to choose an easy way to pick a winner (example: most cans, based on weight, etc). If you need your donations weighed be sure to specify this when registering and then clearly mark the teams' boxes. See below for fun prize ideas.

Donations in exchange for gifts:

Have your friends and family give donations of food and/or funds instead of gifts for your birthday party, retirement party, baby shower, wedding, anniversary, etc.

Fun Ideas!

- Hold a workplace/school challenge and have prizes for the winning team.
- Have the losing team do something silly like wear funny hats or clothing, or clean the office fridge!
- Hold draws for a reserved parking space, day off with pay, hockey tickets etc.
- Have a "Casual Dress Day" and donate to participate
- Have a themed food drive – Italian themed (pasta sauce, dried pasta, etc.), baby items (diapers, formula, wipes, bottles, etc.)
- Have an "empty your pockets" day (or week) and collect change from everyone in the office

- Host a golf or bowling tournament
- Make Can Sculptures. Collect food and make a piece of art out of it. Visit <http://www.canstruction.org> for inspiration
- Host a used book sale or bake sale
- Host a silent auction
- Have a pot luck lunch
- Have an art/craft/hobby show featuring individuals art
- Hold a Pizza Party! Order pizza and charge a set amount per slice (make sure to cover your costs and still include a donation to the Ottawa Food Bank.).
- Start a treat cart. Sell treats or baked goods
- Host a “Lunch Auction” where participants make a gourmet or themed lunch and put them up on the auction block! (This idea works well with [Lunch Money Day!](#))
- Have a staff BBQ with proceeds donated to the Ottawa Food Bank
- Hold a “Game Day” where participants provide a donation to gain access to the activities which can include card games, board games, bingo etc.

Hold Lunch Money Day in your office:

Become a Lunch Money Day Leader and register your office to participate in Lunch Money Day. Ask your colleagues to donate what they would have spent on eating out for lunch and bring their lunch from home. See our Lunch Money Day page for more information.

Remember to promote your event!

- Send out email blasts to your colleagues, friends and family about when, how and what they should donate
- If you’re doing a Fund Drive, include donation cards with pay stubs or employee newsletters (if taking place at work)
- Post information about the drive on your intranet (if available)
- Publish your drive in your internal newsletter (if available)
- Put up posters in highly visible areas. Create your own, or [print off](#) some of ours!
- Use your social media to get the word out.

We love to see what you are doing!

Your effort and creativity is appreciated by us and we encourage you to send us your poster, other collateral and pictures of your event! We would love to showcase them on our website, in our warehouse etc.

REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR EVENT ONLINE!

[- register here-](#)



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