

How to Hold a Food Drive

Des Moines Area Religious Council



Help the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry network feed the hungry in the Des Moines Metro area by holding a food drive in your congregation, your workplace, your club, or your home. In 2009, DMARC's food pantries served 11,661 different families, totaling about 1.1 million food items given to people in need. This service is possible thanks to robust neighborhood partnerships, strong volunteers, and hearty donations through projects such as food drives.

Getting Started.

- Call the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry at 515-277-6969 to indicate you are planning a food drive. Ask for Elisabeth Ballstadt, Food Pantry Director.
- Establish a committee to organize and market the event. Set your kick-off and ending dates. A one to two week food drive works best.
- Hold contests between offices or work units to see who can collect the most food.
- Establish drop off site(s) for donated food. We can make arrangements to provide you with a Red Barrel to hold the food that is collected and envelopes for those who wish to give cash donations.
- Be sure to publicize the success of your food drive when it is completed.

Suggested Donations.



Collect non-perishable food items in unbreakable containers. Please, no glass!

We gladly accept fresh produce, however, it must be delivered to our warehouse immediately so we can distribute while fresh.

DMARC Most Needed Food Items can offer guidance. To download a printer friendly flyer, please go to our website: www.dmreligious.org, click on %Services,+ then click %Emergency Food Pantries.+

What about donating cash?

The Emergency Food Pantry can buy food at a much lower cost than individuals because we utilize the Food Bank of Iowa and local wholesalers. Seventy percent of food distributed is purchased using funds from cash donations. You may donate on our website: www.dmreligious.org, click %Donate+on the right panel of homepage.

Completing your food drive.

When your food drive is complete, count the number of food items you collected and package it in cardboard boxes. It is helpful if dry goods (cereals, rice, etc.) are packaged in separate boxes. Deliver your food to the Emergency Food Pantry Warehouse or contact DMARC at 515-277-6969 for pick up assistance.

Thank You!

Your donation helps DMARC service 11 neighborhood food pantries in Greater Des Moines, ensuring that emergency food gets to the families who need it.
