FOOD DRIVE INFO PACK

Food-drivin' since 1982!

Items Included:

1. Facts about Food Insecurity in our Community
2. Tips on organizing your Food Drive
3. List of our Most Needed Items

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF EAST TENNESSEE | 136 HARVEST LANE MARYVILLE, TN 37801

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Food Insecurity in East Tennessee

Every day in East Tennessee, our neighbors are faced with a very difficult decision. Often, they must choose between paying for food, or other essentials, such as fuel, housing, and healthcare. This decision leads many to seek out emergency food assistance.

Second Harvest believes in **Food for ALL** for East Tennessee. Each of our eight hunger-relief programs are designed to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to receive food within our **18-county service area**.

The total number of people experiencing food insecurity in East Tennessee has surpassed **213,000**.*

On average, **49.9%** of those folks are **above the SNAP threshold**, meaning they do not qualify for governmental assistance.* Sometimes, even after receiving assistance, a hole can still be left in the needs of a household.

Through our hunger-relief programs, Second Harvest ensures that food makes it from our facility into the homes of our neighbors in need of food assistance. The programs include: Food for Kids, Senior Outreach, Mobile Pantry, Food Rescue, Partner Agencies, and Empowerment Services.

In fiscal year 2025, Second Harvest distributed more than **27 Million pounds of food** to **780+ Partner Agencies** across an **8,000 square mile service area**.

*According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap (2025)

Tips for a Successful Food Drive

1. Brainstorm and Plan: Choose your date(s). In a public setting, a single-day food drive can be very successful. In a workplace environment, consider a multi-week drive. This time gives employees multiple opportunities to contribute.

2. Set Goals: No donation is too small, or too big! At Second Harvest, every 1.2 pounds of food equates to one meal — so no matter what you collect, we are grateful for your help. Setting a goal can help fuel excitement for your drive.

*Consider hosting a **Virtual Food Drive** along with your traditional Food Drive. Virtual Food Drives are a great way to raise funds along with shelf-stable donations. For every $1 donated, Second Harvest Food Bank can provide THREE meals to an East Tennessee neighbors experiencing food insecurity.*

3. Most Needed Items: Share the included list with your friends, family, and colleagues. This list contains the most needed items Second Harvest needs to sustain our eight hunger relief programs.

4. Collection System: Select a prime location for your food drive. Choose a high-traffic area where the collection containers are very visible. Make sure there is plenty of space for your collection containers, and they are kept in an area safe for food. Collection boxes and barrels are available for your use, supplied by Second Harvest. Alternatively, you could collect food using small to medium-sized boxes. Throughout the drive, try to keep heavy items on the bottom.

If you would like to borrow a barrel or box for your donations, please contact our Food Drives Coordinator via email at FoodDrives@SecondHarvestETN.org or by calling (865) 521-0000.

5. Promote your Food Drive: Spread the word! Be creative, and have fun. Below are some ideas to get you started:

- Place posters in highly visible places
- Decorate food collection boxes
- Send emails, blog about it, and post it to your social accounts (& tag us!)

6. Thank your Food Drive Donors: Be sure to thank everyone who participated in your food drive, letting them know how much their donations are appreciated by Second Harvest. With more than 213,000 East Tennesseans at risk of hunger*, your help is greatly valued!

*According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap (2025)

Most Needed Food Drive Items

No glass containers please | No medications or alcohol

- **Peanut** (or nut-free) **Butter**
  - Sunflower butter
- **Canned Proteins**
  - Tuna
  - Chicken
  - Salmon
  - Beans
- **Canned Fruits**
  - Peaches
  - Pears
  - Pineapple
- **Canned Vegetables**
  - Green beans
  - Corn
  - Mixed Veggies
- **Canned Soups**
  - Beef stew
  - Chicken noodle
  - Chili
- **Staple Items**
  - Rice
  - Dry beans
  - Dry pasta
  - Cereal

1.2 POUNDS OF FOOD = 1 MEAL

For more information, please contact
FoodDrives@SecondHarvestETN.org or (865) 521-0000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!