



## So You Want to Host a Food Pantry Drive

You and some of your friends (or colleagues, or fellow girl/boy scouts) have decided to give back and want to collect items for GPHC's Food Programs. Here's a step-by-step guide to make this as simple as possible! Let's get started.

**Step 1: Choose what type of drive you'd like to have.** This will be the most difficult step of this process. You know you want to give, but *what* do you want to give? Well, we're here to help you figure that out!

**Non-perishable food** – You've probably helped with a food drive before whether at your school, faith community, or at a special event. This is likely the easiest type of drive given how familiar people are with giving cans of food. While we accept any unexpired, unopened food, we have put together a list of our "most loved" items at [greaterparkhill.org/get-involved/donate/](http://greaterparkhill.org/get-involved/donate/). We particularly need items listed for our Weekend Food Program

**Fund Drive** – Folks don't usually think to host a fund drive, but due to our partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies, we can purchase non-perishable, fresh, and frozen food for a fraction of the cost your donors will pay for a can of green beans at the grocery store. Fund Drives are a great way to get others in your community excited about giving to combat hunger in Greater Park Hill! If you are interested in this type of drive, but aren't sure where to start, please reach out!

**Kitchen kit** – Our food pantry provides our clients with food, but what good is food if you don't have utensils and other kitchen items? Our clients need items including: spatulas, can openers, stirring spoons, foil, plastic wrap, etc. We'd greatly appreciate a Kitchen Kit Drive so we can build kits for clients to take home when they come to the food pantry!

**Hygiene kit** – Another specialty area is for hygiene items, which we distribute to our clients throughout the year. We accept both travel-size and regular-size items including: lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, floss, bath/shower gel, and sunblock. We also need: toothbrushes, chapstick, bars of soap, tampons, and pads.

**Thanksgiving** – Every year at Thanksgiving, we distribute 300 Thanksgiving boxes that include everything from a frozen turkey to cranberry sauce to fresh potatoes to turkey pans. If you'd like to gather items for Thanksgiving, please let us know and we'll help you get set up.

Do you have something else in mind? If so, be in touch and let's see how your idea can work! If you're interested in a kitchen kit or hygiene kit drive, there is also a volunteer opportunity assembling these kits.

**Step 2: Decide when and how you'll have your drive!** At the very least, you'll need to choose a limited amount of time (probably somewhere between three hours and two weeks) to gather items and choose a drop off site(s), which could be as simple as a cardboard box in a common space. When planning your drive, you might want to think about what else is going on that can help you build anticipation or excitement for your drive. Do you have a birthday coming up? Does your school, business, or organization have a spirit week? Are you having an event where a canned good (or other item) can get your participants in at a reduced cost or free of charge? Do you want to have donations received all at once or do you want to have a whole week of giving? Any of these are great ways to incentivize giving in your community!

**Step 3: Spread the word!** The best way to increase participation in your drive is you! Share what you're doing and why with everyone: family, friends, colleagues, and classmates! Share progress pictures on social media. Have a friendly competition with another drive organizer and see who can gather the most items! Really, any way you share about what you're doing increases the opportunity for others to participate. You might be surprised by the impact you have.

**Step 4: Bring your items to GPHC.** You've done the hard work of spreading the news, getting others to donate, and now you're ready to donate! Simply bring the items you've collected to GPHC during our office hours Monday through Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm. If those hours do not work, please contact our office and we can arrange another time.

**Tada!** You've made a tangible difference in the lives of Greater Park Hill residents!

Please direct questions to [info@greaterparkhill.org](mailto:info@greaterparkhill.org) or 303-388-0918