st. matt's

where hope thrives

Food Drive Kit

HOST A FOOD DRIVE FOR ST. MATT'S

Thank you for choosing to support St. Matt's — and your community. Hosting a food drive is a simple, meaningful way to help neighbours experiencing food insecurity. Donations help stock our Emergency Food Delivery program, providing individuals and families with food and everyday essentials when they need them most.

And you don't have to do it alone. This kit includes ideas, tips, frequently asked questions and a list of our most-needed items to help make your food drive easy, successful — and fun.

Need a hand? Contact Madeleine at mbond@stmatthewshouse.ca. We can help coordinate donation pick-up or drop-off, provide collection bins, arrange a St. Matt's speaker, or support you with posters, social media and promotion.

Thank you for being part of a community where hope thrives.

INC. 1975 st. matt's where hope thrives HAMILTON

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LET'S GET STARTED

First, choose your date and format. Your food drive can last a few hours, a day, a week or longer — whatever works for your group.

Then have some fun with it! Try one of these themes or create your own:

- Can Hunger: Collect canned and non-perishable foods.
- Uncanny Meat Drive: Focus on high-need canned proteins such as tuna, salmon, chicken and ham.
- Warm Their Hearts: Collect soups, stews, chili and other hearty foods.
- Bring Us Your Breakfast: Gather cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars and shelf-stable milk.
- Food for Everyone: Collect gluten-free, nut-free and dairy-free alternatives.
- Friendly Competition: Challenge departments, classrooms or teams to see who can collect the most food or donations.
- Food for Admission: Host a book sale, bake sale, BBQ or other event and ask guests to bring a food item.
- Raffle for a Cause: Add a raffle or other FUNraising activity to your workplace, school, faith community or event.

BUILD YOUR TEAM

Invite a few volunteers to help plan, promote and collect donations. Food drives are community efforts — and a few extra hands can make a big difference.

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SPREAD THE WORD

Once you have your date, location and goal, tell everyone!
Share your food drive through social media, workplace or school emails, newsletters, community groups and, of course, word of mouth. Make it clear what you're collecting, where donations can be dropped off and when your drive ends.

St. Matt's can help promote your event, too. We can provide our logo, help create a poster and amplify your food drive through our social channels.

And please tag us! We love seeing our community in action.

FOOD DRIVE FAQs

Where do we bring our donations?
Food drive donations can be dropped off at our Seniors Support Program location at 705 Main Street East, Hamilton.
Ramp entrance off St. Clair Avenue.

Donations are weighed when they arrive, so we can let you know the final total collected.

Can St. Matt's pick up our donations?
In some cases, yes. Please contact us when you set your food drive date so we can coordinate a pick-up around our Emergency Food Delivery schedule.

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Can we borrow collection bins?

Yes. We have a limited number of large blue collection bins available. Please arrange these in advance and do not mark or decorate the bins, as we reuse them for community food drives.
Reusing sturdy boxes is another easy and environmentally friendly option.

Can we donate fresh or frozen food?

Yes, with advance planning. We have refrigerators and freezers at 705 Main Street East and may be able to accept perishable donations from same-day events. Please contact us before collecting these items so we can make sure they can be safely received and stored.

WHAT ABOUT MONETARY DONATIONS?

Absolutely. Financial gifts allow St. Matt's to purchase food in bulk and fill gaps when particular items are urgently needed.

Donations can be made directly to St. Matt's online. Donation forms are also available for people wishing to give by cash or credit card. Eligible monetary donations can receive a charitable tax receipt when the required donor information is provided. Please note that purchases of raffle, live auction or silent auction items are generally not eligible for charitable tax receipts.

THANK YOU!

Every box, bag, can and dollar represents something bigger: neighbours helping neighbours. Your food drive helps St. Matt's respond to food insecurity with practical support, dignity and care.

Thank you for helping create a community where hope thrives.