

## Other ways to help fight hunger

Want to try something else to help fight hunger in your community? Below are some ideas for events to gather donations, things you can do with your food bank, and other events ideas for you to try in your clubs!

### **Events you can host in your community**

Any event can easily turn into a way to raise donations for your food bank! Consider hosting a fun event in your community where the entry fee is either cans of food or a small amount of money—both of which can be donated to your local food bank. Here are just a few examples of events you can host:

- A pageant- Whether you want to make it silly or serious, having a pageant is always a great way to raise money! This event is a lot of work, but is one of the best ways to spread awareness due to the contestants and the support their friends will give them. You can either invite the student body at large to nominate individuals, or you can invite different student organizations, fraternities, and sororities to choose a representative. You can have the show consist of a talent portion, an interview, or anything else you'd like-- just make it engaging! Be sure to have an award for the contestant who raises the most money/pounds of food for the food bank. As the event gets closer, host a couple of mandatory rehearsals for your contestants, tech crew, and emcees to ensure the show is smooth.
- A video game or dodgeball tournament- Host a video game or dodgeball tournament! Make contestants pay the donation to enter, and give the winner a gift card. In the case of players entering as teams, you can advertise to clubs on campus, and/or allow individuals to join independently of a club.
- A dance-a-thon- Host a dance-a-thon at your school! Have dancers collect sponsorships for monetary or food donations based on the time that they dance, or have dancers give an entry donation. At the event, you can sell food and drinks or have a raffle to further raise donations.
- A walk or run- Host a walk or run around your school or its track! Have participants pay a monetary or food donation fee to enter, or have them collect sponsorships for the number of laps around the track they run or walk. Again, you can sell food and drinks or have a raffle to further raise donations.
- Host a catered meal/cookout/pancake breakfast- Partner with a local restaurant or have your own barbeque or pancake breakfast to raise funds and donations. Have attendees pay an entry fee in monetary or food donations.

### **Volunteer at your food bank**

Food banks don't only need support with donations. They have tasks that need to be done regularly. Many opportunities are listed online and vary based on the food bank. Typically, this is some of what you can expect to do with your local food bank:

- Sorting- Food donations need to be sorted to ensure the items can still be consumed, and into various categories based on nutritional value.
- Distribution- Hand out food to the families in need.
- Packing- Pack boxes of food for families to pick up, or bagged lunches for local kids. This can also include putting together packs for families to use during emergencies.
- Gardening- Many food banks have a garden that needs volunteer help!
- Office work- Food banks will need help entering data, filing, and doing paperwork.

### Other ways to help

- Orchard picking- A fun event your club can do is go orchard picking! Many locals with fruit trees might have an excess of fruit that they just want to get rid of. Instead of letting that fruit go to waste, ask them if your club can come and pick the fruit off their trees to be donated to your local food bank! Your food bank might be able to help you locate some of these growers, or you can do a search online for gleaning groups. You also can advertise to members of your community in neighborhoods near your school to have their backyard trees picked. These types of events usually last for around 3 hours.
- Host a sandwich-making marathon- This event is a fun extravaganza! Host a giant event to make sandwiches to be donated to the hungry in your community! Usually this event is done with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. All you need is bread, the peanut butter and jelly, knives to spread with, and some gloves. These types of events usually last for around 2 hours.
- Ask local grocery stores or restaurants- Many stores or restaurants have unsold food that just goes to waste every day. See if you can work with businesses in your community and your local food bank to forge a partnership to donate edible yet unsold food to those in need!