



Extended Hands Pantry

Thank You for Feeding Our Community



**A Guide to Hosting a Food Drive
for Extended Hands Pantry**

First things first—thank you.

Whether you're a student group, a congregation, a workplace, or a neighborhood crew, the fact that you want to host a food drive means the world to us. Every can, every bag, every thoughtful effort adds up to something powerful: nourishment, dignity, and hope.

Extended Hands Pantry isn't your average food pantry. We serve **Dane County's** diverse families—many of whom are immigrants and refugees—and we specialize in providing foods that feel familiar, comforting, and culturally appropriate. You won't just find mac and cheese and peanut butter here. You'll find masa, dried lentils and red beans, halal meats, and rice—because food is about survival and identity.

And here's something else we're proud of:

- Over **99% of every dollar donated goes directly toward food.**
- Our growth is both exponential and a significant part of our story. **We went from serving 100 to 600 families each week in five years.**

Your food drive will help us meet this growing need.



How to Get Started

STEP 1

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you before your drive begins, so we can offer support and tailor it to our most-needed items. Reach out to:



608-219-2985



info@extendedhandspantry.org



Drop-off: 6402 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI 53711



Mailing: PO BOX 7372, Madison, WI 53707-7372

STEP 2

Choose Your Dates & Promote Your Drive

Decide how long your drive will last—one day, a weekend, or all month. The more time you give people to contribute, the better!

We recommend promoting your food drive with:

- Flyers (we can send you a printable one!)
- Emails or newsletters
- Social media posts (we're happy to share samples)
- A donation box in a visible, high-traffic area

STEP 3

Focus on What We Really Need

We aim to provide pantry staples that matter most to our guests. Here are some of our most-requested items:

- **Dried beans** (black, pinto, red, lentils)
- **White rice** (especially jasmine or basmati)
- **Masa harina** (for tamales and tortillas)
- **Shelf-stable milk or oat/soy milk**
- **Canned tuna or chicken**
- **Cooking oil (vegetable, canola, sunflower)**
- **Flour and sugar**
- **Tea, coffee, spices**
- **Fresh produce (by arrangement)**

We also welcome monetary donations, which allow us to buy culturally specific foods in bulk and fill in gaps.



STEP 4

Drop Off or Schedule a Pickup

Once your drive ends, give us a call to arrange drop-off—or in some cases, we can pick up from you! Our team is small but mighty, and we're always happy to coordinate.



Bonus Ideas to Make It Fun



Make it a competition between departments or classrooms.



Share your drive on social media and tag us!



Invite someone from our pantry to come speak about our mission.



Match every donated item with a dollar from your business or group.

Because Food is More Than Just Nutrition

When you help us fill bags and stock shelves, you're helping families feel welcome, seen, and cared for. You're saying: You belong here. And that's a powerful message.

Thank you again for choosing to walk alongside us. Together, we're not just handing out food—we're building a more compassionate and connected Madison.

With gratitude,
The Extended Hands Pantry Team