

# One-Time Food Drive Planning Sheet

## Why hold a food drive? Isn't money better?

- Monetary donations go much further when we purchase food at the Greater Boston Food Bank **BUT**
- Donations are our primary source for specialty items such as Gluten Free foods, peanut butter alternatives and milk alternatives. Arlington EATS typically relies on community donations of food for about 30% of our food supply! **Food drives help us provide important items and a greater variety to our guests!**

## Did you know?

1 in 8 people in Massachusetts are food insecure  
10% of people living in Arlington are at risk of food insecurity

## Things to think about when planning your food drive!

### Plan when and for how long.

- Will it be a one day event or over the course of a week? **OR**
- Combine it with an event (block party, school concert etc).

### Drop off **OR** Pick up?

- Ask people to drop off items in a specific location during a set period of time **OR**
- Ask people to leave items on their front porch for you to pick up on a certain day

### Advertise our current most needed items!

- Check for our monthly "Spotlight Items" (on FB or our newsletter)
- Want a theme? See our suggestions →
- Reminders:
  - Even a couple of our "spotlight items" from each house really adds up!
  - Items need to be "in date"!
  - Please donate standard sizes (no snack / jumbo sizes)
  - No perishable items
  - No soda or sports drinks

### Collect your donations and drop them off!

Donation hours are on Tuesdays from 1-6 at the Market located at 117 Broadway, Arlington.

### Still have questions? Plan on delivering multiple car loads?

### Want to know the spotlight items of the month?

**Drop us a line! [sdorson@arlingtoneats.org](mailto:sdorson@arlingtoneats.org) or 339-707-6757 x1006**

## HIGH DEMAND ITEMS:

- Cereal (especially Cheerios!)
- Shelf stable soup
- Peanut butter alternatives
- Snacks
- Soy sauce
- Shelf stable soy milk/ almond milk
- Laundry detergent
- Personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush
- Diapers (larger sizes are more in demand)
- Olive/canola oil

## THEME IDEAS

- **Rise and Shine**  
Breakfast items:  
cereal, oatmeal, coffee, tea, cocoa
- **Winter Warm Up**  
Soup, cocoa, tea
- **Snack Attack**  
Granola bars, pretzels, nuts, crackers
- **Food for All**  
Food alternatives – almond/sun butter, soy/almond milk, gluten free products