



How do food drives benefit the community?

The food and household goods collected through food drives are North York Harvest Food Bank's best source of high-quality non-perishable foods and much needed personal/household care items. The food collected through these drives provide individuals and families seeking emergency food assistance access to a better variety of items, enabling a more balanced diet and improving their quality of life.

Food drives also create awareness and a broader understanding about the hunger that exists in our community. Reaching out to participants with information about the problem is the first step toward achieving a long-term solution to end hunger.

What items does North York Harvest Food Bank need most?

Most Needed Food Items

canned meat	canned fish	peanut butter
canned/dried beans	canned vegetables	canned fruits
cereal (whole grains)	grains - pasta, rice	fruit juice
tea/coffee	cooking oil	healthy snacks
baby formula	baby cereal	baby snacks

Most Needed Household Supplies / Personal Care Items

toilet paper	deodorant	toothpaste
laundry detergent	shampoo	soap
shaving cream	cleaning supplies	dish soap
baby wipes	baby diapers	feminine hygiene products

What items can North York Harvest Food Bank NOT take?

To ensure food safety we cannot use:

- rusty or unlabeled cans
- perishable items
- homemade items
- alcoholic beverages
- open or used items
- items past expiry date

PLEASE NOTE: If you donate glass products, please box or bag them separately and label the box or bag "GLASS" on all sides.

How do I get a North York Harvest Food Bank box for my drive?

North York Harvest Food Bank has collapsible boxes (height=32 inches, width 24 inches) available, which has the North York Harvest logo. The box has the capacity to hold approximately 200 lbs!

Please help cut our transportation costs by picking up the boxes from our location at 640 Lawrence Ave West (behind Bathurst Heights S.S.) If you are not able to pick up the food drive boxes, North York Harvest can deliver them when our drivers are in your area.

Does the North York Harvest Food Bank offer supplies to assist in hosting a Food Drive?

Yes, we do! We have the following materials available:

- Large posters that can be personalized with your food drive's date and location.
- North York Harvest brochures
- North York Harvest buttons
- North York Harvest quarterly newsletters
- North York Harvest annual reports
- Paper bags with North York Harvest Food Bank signage, limited supply

Can we make up our own materials and bin decorations to help promote our effort?

We have provided some basic materials to help you promote your drive but encourage you to customize materials and bin decorations to fit your effort.

How long do most drives last?

Most organizations schedule drives that span two to three weeks. This is generally long enough to get maximum participation, while still maintaining a high level of energy and enthusiasm from participants.

Can we extend the dates of our drive once it is underway?

If you need to extend the dates of your food drive, simply call 416-635-7771 ext. 48 and let us know.

What happens if our box gets full before our drive is over?

If your drive is even more successful than anticipated and your boxes are overflowing before the end of your drive, please call 416-635-7771 ext. 48. We will work with you to make arrangements to schedule an additional pick-up.

How do I get our food drive donations to North York Harvest Food Bank?

If you have at least one full food box at the end of your drive, please contact us at 416-635-7771 ext. 59 or tanya@northyorkharvest.com and we will schedule a driver to pick it up.

We are grateful for donations of any quantity, but transportation costs limit our ability to pick up donations of less than a full box. For quantities of less than a box, please make arrangements to deliver your food to North York Harvest Food Bank by contacting us at the phone number or e-mail address above. If you are not able to deliver the food to North York Harvest Food Bank, you may take it to a permanent drop-off location near your home or work (see our website for locations).

Please note, however, that donations put in a bin at a drop-off location cannot be tracked. If you would like the food you collected to be credited to your food drive, please contact us by phone or e-mail to let us know how many pounds your drive collected.

Will North York Harvest Food Bank tell the media about my food/fund drive?

We can help you with publicity tips and prepare a press release, but the message is more effective when it comes directly from you. **Please send us a copy of the press release for our records.** North York Harvest Food Bank recognizes all food/fund drive sponsors with a letter of thanks and in our Annual Report.

What's the best way to collect financial donations?

North York Harvest Food Bank's Virtual Food Drive is a great way to encourage people to donate financially to your drive through our secure website. You can start your own Virtual Food Drive in just minutes and use our online tools to invite family and friends to join your efforts. All donations are managed by North York Harvest and donors receive electronic tax receipts.

<http://www.northyorkharvestfoodbank.com/vfd>

If you are collecting cash, we encourage you to mail a cheque for the total cash collected. (Please do not mail cash to North York Harvest Food Bank.)



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