

Final preparations underway for food drive

Letter carriers are preparing for the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive—the largest single-day food drive in the country—to be held on Saturday, May 10.

One in 5 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. Letter carriers have helped meet the need by collecting food that postal patrons leave near their mailboxes on the second Saturday of each May since 1993.

NALC branches deliver the food to local food banks, which often face shortages in spring and summer because holiday donations have been depleted. Most school meal programs are not available during the summer months, making the timing of the letter carrier food drive crucial.

“Letter carriers are in every community and can see who in their communities are in need,” NALC President Brian L. Renfro said. “We step up by filling the shelves of local food pantries. Our commitment to the food drive is unwavering.”

Our national partners help make the annual food drive possible. The partners are the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, RR Donnelley, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, Kellanova and CVS Health. These partners help through such actions as sponsoring the specially marked postcards, donating thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars to food pantries, donating bags that letter carriers distribute to customers to put their contributions in, gathering volunteers, or getting out the message about the food drive.

In addition, many labor unions contribute in ways large and small,

including: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; International Association of Machinists And Aerospace Workers; United Steelworkers; International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers; Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' International Association of the United States & Canada; and the Airline Pilots Association, International.

Volunteers also are key to the drive's success. NALC Headquarters communications staffers and branch food drive coordinators use various means of communication to publicize the event.

The digital communications team at Headquarters already is busy spreading news and reminders on social media, including the event's official social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/StampOutHunger and on X (formerly known as Twitter) at [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger). To find or send messages about the food drive on either platform, use #StampOutHunger.

NALC also promotes news media coverage about the food drive before, the day of, and after the event by distributing news releases and through individual outreach to newspapers, television stations and radio outlets nationwide. Meanwhile, branch food drive coordinators promote the effort on the local level.

After the big day, it'll be time to measure our success. To do that, branches need to report the pounds of food they collected to NALC Headquarters by June 6. The official results will be submitted in the food drive database via the Mem-



bers Only portal under the “Sponsors” tab. Select “Add Local Sponsor” to input money collected and/or pounds of food.

Time is running out for branches to register. Registration is simple and requires only a few minutes.

Branch presidents can simply visit the NALC website at nalc.org, log into the Members Only

portal, select the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive icon, enter the requested information listed under each tab, and click “Complete Registration.” Branch presidents have the option to designate a local food drive coordinator, who will then gain access to the food drive database via their Members Only portal and will be able to register the branch.

To designate a local coordinator, branch presidents should select the “Coordinators” tab, click “Add Coordinator,” and once the dialog box appears, click “Member Search,” key in the member's last name, double-click the member's name to select, and click “Submit Search.” Click the “Submit” button when the dialog box from the previous page appears and auto-populates with the member's information. The local coordinator will then have access to the food drive database via the Members Only portal.

Branch registration will remain open without postcard guarantee until April 18.

If a branch has questions, please visit nalc.org/toolkit to find contact information for your regional or state coordinator, who will be able to provide assistance. More information about the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive can be found online at nalc.org/food. **PR**