



# **Neighborhood Food Drives Starter Packet**

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# Food Drive – A Bridge to Transformation

In October of 2004, during Unite! Compassion in Action Weekend ([www.uniteus.org](http://www.uniteus.org)), Drue & Laura Warner coordinated a neighborhood Food Drive. They had been in their subdivision for about a month and a half, but this was a great opportunity that they didn't want to miss. The Warner's vision for their neighborhood is much larger than collecting food. They are committed to their church's vision of "Bringing greater Atlanta into a life transforming encounter with the Kingdom of God" and they believe that transformation first occurs in the following order: individually, in our families, in our neighborhoods, communities, cities, states, countries and world. Therefore, they decided to focus on the next line of progression in their lives, their neighborhood.

By sharing their story, the Warners hope to encourage you that God can do big things with very few resources or people (even just one family)! Their Neighborhood Food Drive was the perfect launching point for personal neighborhood ministry that has touched all of their neighbors, some of which have been significantly influenced.

On Oct. 2, 2004, the Warners held a Neighborhood Food Drive to benefit a local food bank. Over 100 bags of groceries were donated by neighbors, and about 10 neighbors gave their names and contact information on a "sign up" sheet expressing interest in community building activities. The next week, at the annual Homeowner's meeting, the Warners were asked to report on the Food Drive results. Immediately, 35 more families expressed interest in adding their names to the list!

From that point, the Warners decided to host monthly coffee socials to discuss ideas for how to "build a greater sense of community" in their neighborhood (i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Kids Parade, Halloween Meet & Greet, Christmas Caroling Party, Quarterly Coffee Socials, Neighborhood Newsletter, Welcome Committee, etc). Additionally, they mapped out the whole neighborhood, and began a directory with names, addresses, phone, and email addresses of the neighbors they had met so they could locate where they lived, and pray for them as they walked regularly through their neighborhood.

**2007 Update...** *It's now 3 years since our first Neighborhood Food Drive, which was the key event that launched ministry and relationships in our neighborhood. As a result, Laura regularly spends time with 10-12 stay at home moms, while Drue is co-leading a neighborhood Men's Group, of 12 Christian and non-Christian guys. 4 families have started attending church with us. Our relationships now exceed 80+ families and meaningful friendships developing with 15-20 families. By serving on the neighborhood Welcome Committee, we are able to personally meet each new neighbor that moves into our neighborhood. As important as the opportunity we've had to live out the gospel and positively influence the spiritual lives of others, God has given an abundance of neighbors that we can truly call, our friends.*

*We've connected with about 8 other Christian families with whom we meet regularly to cast vision, pray, and encourage one another in our mutual hearts to see God expand His Kingdom, through us working together, in our neighborhood.*

Be creative and have fun! For more information about the Warner's neighborhood ministry, read chapter 11 of "Group's Body Building Guide to Outreach" by Jan Kershner / Group Publishing or contact Drue Warner at 678-405-2227 or [druew@perimeter.org](mailto:druew@perimeter.org).

# Neighborhood Food Drive

## OVERVIEW

Impact our community in a big way by encouraging your neighborhood to provide food for needy families! Make it easy for them by picking up the food from their driveways or holding a “drop-off get-together” at a central place like the playground or pool. A head start of 1-2 weeks is advisable.

### ***GREAT REASONS TO HOLD A FOOD DRIVE!***

- A small effort can produce a large result.
- It’s a great way to meet the neighbors you haven’t met in order to build relationships, while serving the community together.
- It’s a ministry opportunity ideal for singles, groups, families, and children.
- It is easy to do, not overwhelming for any one person, with limited and flexible time commitment.
- It is a great way to help your neighbors serve others in need. Most people want to, but don’t know what or how to donate. You’ll make it simple for them.
- The Gospel can go with you across the relational bridges built with others in your neighborhood simply because you have a legitimate and excellent reason to “knock on their door.” As relationships develop, friendships form. Through friendships, the love and hope of Jesus Christ can be introduced.

***WHAT ARE COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES?*** The Local Cooperative Ministry is a Christian organization providing local families in need with food, clothing, financial assistance for rent & utilities, employment assistance, and prayer support. **Thousands** of people are helped each year! They are supported by area churches, individuals, and a few corporate and foundation donations. The Local Coop is primarily staffed by volunteers, and you are welcome to join the team!

### **Local Cooperative Ministries**

**Address**

**Phone**

**Website**

# Neighborhood Food Drive

## Step by Step Procedures

### ***Brief Overview***

1. *Distribute Fliers (1-3 weeks prior to drive)*
2. *Put Yard Signs in neighborhood (1 week before drive)*
3. *Collect Food Donations (day of the drive)*
4. *Deliver Food Donations to local food bank (day of the drive)*

### ***Detailed Overview***

#### ***1. DISTRIBUTE FLYERS (1-3 Weeks Prior to Drive)***

A suggested flyer is included in this packet. Feel free to edit as needed. You may want to include your designated food pick-up date / time or include a contact name and phone number so people can call with questions or to volunteer to help.

You will need to make as many copies of the flyer as you have homes in the neighborhood.

#### ***If you'd like to include envelopes for financial donations...***

Be sure to address the envelopes with mailing labels for the Local Cooperative (see below).

Local Food Bank Mailing Address
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*Staple the envelope and flyer / food list to the bags.  
If grocery bags are not used and you intend to use envelopes, staple or stuff the flyer.*

**FLYER DISTRIBUTION:** Assign streets or sections of your neighborhood to your group of volunteers. Approximately 7-10 days ahead of the collection, distribute the bags with the flyer / food list attached throughout the neighborhood, placing them on front porches, tucking them into the front door or other visible place. Be respectful of your neighbors -- don't tape to their doors. (Mailboxes should also not be used—it is against federal law!) It would be fantastic if you were able to knock on doors and make personal contact. If you have a neighborhood email list and it is permissible to use it, send out a notice that way as well.

#### **GROCERY BAGS:**

- Option A**      **Have contributors use their own grocery bags**  
**Option B**      **Provide a grocery bag to contributor (from local grocery store)**

***If option B, read the following suggestions.***

If you choose to use grocery bags, ask for donations of paper grocery bags from local grocery stores. It is always helpful to identify yourself and what church you're representing. At the service counter, ask for a customer service manager or store manager. Explain that the bags will be used for a food drive conducted by your church members to benefit local Co-op food pantries. A Unite! Donations request letter is available for your benefit from Unite! at 678-405-2164.

Be sensitive to the fact that these bags are somewhat costly to the stores. They may not wish to give a large quantity at one time. If you need a lot, try to get bags from several different stores. *Be sure to thank the store manager!*

**2. PUT YARD SIGNS IN NEIGHBORHOOD (One week prior)**

We recommend that you put a few yard signs out in your neighborhood to remind and give information to your neighbors of the upcoming Neighborhood Food Drive. There may be yard signs that you can use, or they can be ordered. For yard signs, contact Unite! at 678-405-2164.

**3. COLLECT FOOD DONATIONS (Day of Drive)**

There are a couple of options regarding food donations collection.

- a. Arrange for a central drop off location in your neighborhood (i.e. community pool, clubhouse, tennis courts, your house, etc). Consider having refreshments available (coffee and donuts, lemonade, etc.) which will tend to encourage people to stay and converse. In addition to serving the community, this could be a good opportunity for neighbors to meet each other, thus developing a greater sense of community.

Try to arrange for a drop off time that is convenient for as many neighbors as possible who may want to donate groceries (i.e. 9am – 12pm).

**NOTE:** This is the preferred method of collection if you desire to meet neighbors.

- b. Arrange to drive through neighborhood and pick up grocery donations left for you on driveways and/or porches. Be sure to leave (or mail) a thank you note to each person giving. You can always print a general thank you note and make multiple copies to be given out. Tax receipts can be provided by contacting your Local Cooperative.

If you decide to pick up donations from driveways, be sure to include this information and instructions on the flyer.

**NOTE:** This is the preferred method of collection if your priority is to collect the most amount of food possible.

**4. SIGN UP SHEET**

If you choose to collect food donations at a central meeting place, you may want to offer the opportunity for neighbors to sign up for awareness of future serving opportunities. If you do this, be sure that you are prepared to follow up! ***Refer to last sheet in this packet.***

**5. DELIVER FOOD TO CO-OP (Preferably, Same Day as Drive)**

Take food to the designated Co-op. Directions may be included. Be sure to call ahead to arrange for a delivery time.

PRE-SORT - If you have the manpower, it is helpful to do a rough pre-sort of the food. For example, bag or box together the canned vegetables, the cereals, the pastas, tuna, etc.



www.UniteUs.org

# Neighborhood Food Drive Flyer

## Benefiting the \_\_\_\_\_ Cooperative

### Day, Date, Time

Unite! is a gathering of over 90 local churches working together to serve needs in our community. Our Neighborhood Food Drive is 1 of over 150 service projects occurring throughout Northeast Atlanta on this weekend. For more information, visit [www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org).

\_\_\_\_\_ Cooperative Ministries is a community and church supported organization that assists local families in need with food, financial assistance, and clothing. They help approximately \_\_\_\_\_ families each month. Neighbors representing local churches are conducting a food drive to help keep the pantry shelves stocked. Through the generosity of our neighborhood, we hope to help \_\_\_\_\_ Cooperative Ministries meet every legitimate request and need for food. You can visit their website at \_\_\_\_\_.

### Food Items Needed

- |                       |                   |                            |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| canned tuna & chicken | macaroni & cheese | boxed potatoes             |
| peanut butter         | cereal            | powdered milk              |
| cooking oil           | pasta & rice      | toilet paper               |
| canned vegetables     | spaghetti sauce   | diapers, esp. larger sizes |
| canned fruit          | sugar             | laundry detergent          |
| baby food             | fruit juice       | toiletries: soap,          |
| shampoo, deodorant    |                   |                            |

If you prefer to make a financial contribution in addition to or instead of food donations, checks should be mailed to \_\_\_\_\_ Cooperative Ministry (Address). Donations are tax-deductible.

### Donation Instructions

*(Food Drive Coordinator – Circle One)*

Drop off food donations on (Day, Date, Time) at \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Leave food donations in your driveway on (Day, Date, Tim. We'll pick up!

***Thank you for your generosity!***



[www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org)

**YARD SIGN SAMPLE**

# **Neighborhood Food Drive Saturday, October 6**

**Drop Donations at Clubhouse  
9am – 12pm**

**More Info?  
See flyer or Call 678-405-2227**



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Drue Warner, and I am the Project Coordinator for *Compassion in Action Weekend* to be held on October 6 & 7, 2007. *Compassion in Action Weekend* is a part of Unite! which is a movement among churches joining together to serve and bless individuals, families, and children in need throughout the city of Atlanta. We are expecting upwards of 100 churches and 6,000 participants to serve Northeast Atlanta in a wide variety of ways. More information on Unite! is available at [www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org). It is our great desire to partner, not only with churches, but also with local businesses. Therefore, Unite! would like to invite your business to serve with us in several different ways.

First of all, we invite you to serve by contributing resources that may be needed for service projects. The items that you choose to donate will be used strictly for the projects and persons served during *Compassion in Action Weekend*.

Secondly, Unite! invites you to join participating churches in helping to underwrite the expenses of *Compassion in Action* through your financial contributions.

Lastly, we invite you to provide man-hours through your employees, and to join us as we serve our community. A list of *Compassion in Action* service projects is available at [www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org) (click on Serving Opportunities).

In closing, I want you to know that the person submitting this letter to you is a volunteer who has donated much time, effort, and energy to serving the needy in our community, and is committed to this endeavor. We appreciate any role that you will play in partnership as we take one step at a time towards building a better community, one person at a time. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this request or Unite!

Blessings,

Drue Warner  
Unite! Leadership Team  
[druew@perimeter.org](mailto:druew@perimeter.org)  
[www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org)  
678-405-2227



# Local Cooperative Ministries

## Duluth Hands of Christ Cooperative

3317 Hwy 120, Suite 5, Barfield Professional Building

P.O. Box 1974, Duluth GA 30096

Mary Roberts 770-623-9563

[www.duluthco-op.org](http://www.duluthco-op.org)

## Partnering Churches

Calvary Christian Fellowship

Church of the Hills Presbyterian

Duluth Church of God

Duluth First Baptist

Duluth First United Methodist

Gwinnett Place Baptist

John's Creek United Methodist

Meadow Baptist

New Community Church

Old Peachtree Presbyterian

Parkway Baptist

Perimeter Church

Pleasant Hill Presbyterian

Providence Church

Seventh Day Adventist

Sugarloaf United Methodist

Trinity United Methodist

Unity Christ Center

West Gwinnett Christian Church

## Lilburn Cooperative

53249 Five Forks Trickum Rd., Lilburn, GA 30047

770-931-8333

[www.lilburncoop.org](http://www.lilburncoop.org)

## Cooperative Partners

All Saints Lutheran Church

Berkmar United Methodist Church

Calvary Baptist Church

Camp Creek Primitive Baptist

Central Baptist Church

Colonial Woods Baptist Church

Cornerstone Church

Crossview Baptist Church

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Ebenezer Spanish Baptist Mission

First Baptist Church of Lilburn

First Baptist Church of Mountain Park

Glorious Gospel Community Church

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Grace Church

Grace Fellowship Church

Harmony Grove UMC

Harvest Community Church

Lilburn Alliance Church

Lilburn Oaks Baptist Church

Lucerne Baptist Church

Luxomni Baptist Church

Mount Carmel Christian Church

Mountain East Community Church

Mountain Park United Methodist Church

Northview Christian Church

Oak Road Lutheran Church

Parkview Church

Pilgrimage Presbyterian Church

Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Solid Rock Church

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

St. Stephens Catholic Church

Stn. Mtn. Seventh Day Adventist Church

Trinity Lutheran Church

White Oak Baptist Church

### **Norcross Cooperative Ministry**

2275 Mitchell Road, Norcross, GA 30071

Shirley Cabe 770-263-8268

[www.norcrossco-op.org](http://www.norcrossco-op.org)

#### **Cooperative Partners**

Campus Church of Christ

Christ Church Episcopal

Christ the King Lutheran

Grace Church

Hopewell Baptist Church

Ivy Creek

John Wesley United Methodist Church

Kirk of the Corners Christian Church

Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church

Norcross First Baptist Church

Norcross First United Methodist Church

Norcross Presbyterian Church

Northeast Community Church

Peachtree Corners Baptist Church

Peachtree Corners Church of Christ

Peachtree Corners Presbyterian

Perimeter Church

Simpsonwood United Methodist Church

St. James Lutheran Church

Victory World Outreach

### **North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC)**

11270 Elkins rd., Roswell, Georgia 30076

Barbara Duffy 770-640-0399

[www.nfcchelp.org](http://www.nfcchelp.org)

### **North Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry**

601 Hill St., Buford, GA 30518

Maureen Kornowa 770-271-9793

[www.northgwinnettcoop.org](http://www.northgwinnettcoop.org)

#### **Cooperative Partners**

City Council

Kiwanis

North Gwinnett Ministerial Assn.

Rotary

Sugar Hill United Methodist

Sugar Hill First Baptist Church

### **S. E. Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry**

2408 E. Main Street, Snellville, GA 30278

Don Ashworth 770-985-5229

