

Steps to Holding a Successful Healthy Food Drive at a Supermarket or Farmers' Market

Notes to Students: A healthy food drive is an appropriate activity for meeting community service requirements. It is recommended that you work with friends, committee or club members, classmates or teammates; you may prefer to schedule shifts for your volunteers for your healthy food drive.

Begin by contacting the soup kitchen or food pantry you want to support to discuss your interest in conducting a healthy food drive on their behalf. Remember, the kitchen or pantry must be located in one of the [15 communities served by Partners for Health Foundation](#) to be eligible for matching grants.

Email Mary Riccio at Partners for Health Foundation (mriccio@partnersfdn.org) to register your event. Be sure to provide:

- The name of your organization or group
- Contact info for the event organizer
- Which kitchen or pantry you will be supporting; name and email for your contact person there
- Date of your event

Get the appropriate permission to hold your healthy food drive on the premises of the supermarket or farmers' market beforehand by contacting or visiting the store or farmers' market manager.

Publicize your healthy food drive in advance with posters and through social media, your organization's website, and use your Committee/PTA/Booster Club/Team/Club email chains to get the word out.

Arrange in advance for help in transporting the donations to the designated kitchen or pantry. Coordinate the timing of this delivery with your contact person there.

Bring clean receptacles (boxes or bags) to collect and transport the donated items; chairs; a table for your handouts and for people to drop off their donations (be sure to have enough space to receive them!).

Bring a donation jar for those who may want to make monetary contributions.

Try to position yourselves in front of a fence or wall, where you can hang a banner or a sign.

Share facts about Hunger during your food drive to make the case for the need to support this effort! [Click here](#) for some compelling facts and statistics.

Distribute copies of the shopping list of “Suggested Healthy Food Donations” that can be found [by clicking here](#).

Take photos and share them with Partners for Health so we can help to promote your accomplishments and incentivize others to take action!

After you have completed the food drive:

- Email Mary Riccio at mriccio@partnersfdn.org to report what you’ve accomplished; for example, how many bags of food were collected? Include photos from your event if you have any!
- Ask your contact person at the kitchen or pantry you supported to email Mary to confirm receipt of the donated foods.
- When both of these emails have been received, the Foundation will cut a \$500 check *payable to the designated kitchen or pantry*.

Event organizers can request Community Service acknowledgement letters on behalf of participating students. Send the name, home address and number of hours worked for each student to: Mary Riccio at mriccio@partnersfdn.org.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact Mary Riccio, mriccio@partnersfdn.org, (973) 746-6130, Ext. 10