



NourishMKE Donation Drive Guide

(Revised April 2025)

NourishMKE is a network of food centers building communities through nourishment. We believe that a dependable supply of food is a means of bringing hope and dignity to our community. At NourishMKE, our supply of food is steadily shrinking, and the demand for food is expanding tremendously. In the last 6 months alone, we have seen a 30% increase in people and families coming to the pantries to receive life-sustaining food. In the coming months, we predict that our pantries will be busier than ever before and we need your help ensuring that our shelves will be full for our community members when they arrive.

Would you or your organization want to host a food drive to support the community? If so, we are here to help you get started! Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this FAQ guide and thank you for your interest in partnering with our network of food centers.

Contact Us!

Email our Volunteer & Development Coordinator at abby@NourishMKE.org to set up your next drive!

Social Media:

We love to feature our partners on social media to showcase your hard work! If you have pictures of your event that you would like to share with us, email them to us at Connect@NourishMKE.org. You can also tag us on **Facebook** or on **Instagram**.

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Food and Supply Drives

Each month, NourishMKE serves free food and personal care items to over 3000 households. Ongoing support is crucial in being able to meet the growing needs of our community members.

We are currently accepting these items for donation:

For Our Pantry:

- Unopened, unexpired shelf stable food items including:
 - Canned food products (**especially fruits, meats & soups**)*
 - **Nut butters** (peanut, almond, cashew, etc.)
 - **Oatmeal and Cereal**
 - Shelf stable milk
 - Boxed meals
 - Pasta, rice and mashed potatoes
 - Sauces (canned or jar)
 - Juice
 - Condiments
 - Cooking oil
 - **Cases of bottled water**
- Fresh food
 - Produce
 - Bread, tortillas
 - Dairy products

- Eggs
- Turkeys and Hams around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays

***Large cases of shelf stable items (like those available at Costco) are especially valuable to us.*

For Our Programs

- Printing services
- Office supplies (pens, printer paper, notebooks)
- Gardening tools and gloves
- Carpentry services
- IT services
- Handyman services
- Gasoline cards
- New and gently used computers, tablets, flat screen tvs
- Cleaning supplies (ex. bleach, fabuloso, paper towels, latex gloves)
- Reusable grocery bags
- Restaurant gift cards

Keep it simple — purchase right from our [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

For Our Clients:

- Bus tickets
- Dental services
- Condoms
- Vision services
- Grocery carts
- Feminine hygiene products
- Incontinence products
- Can openers
- Hand warmers

Donation Guidelines

We are always grateful for the support of our community and the many forms that support takes. Not all gifts can be accepted, though. When giving to NourishMKE, please follow these guidelines. If you have any questions about giving to NourishMKE please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to help!

For safety reasons, we cannot accept some forms of donations:

- Hot, catered, or cooked leftovers
- Food that is expired
- Food containers that are opened
- Cribs, strollers, playpens, car seats and other infant equipment
- Clothing (exceptions: winter gloves, hats, brand new socks, brand new underwear)
- Furniture and Luggage
- Medication – both prescription and over the counter
- Non-standard infant formula – including prescription-only, premature infants, lactose free, and added rice formulas
- Stuffed animals
- Used bedding- pillows, sheets, blankets
- Household items such as kitchen supplies, appliances, decorations, etc.

Donation Drop Off Times

To schedule your donation drop off, connect with our Volunteer and Development Coordinator at abby@NourishMKE.org. Donations can be dropped off at the following locations and times:

| ADDRESS | DROP OFF TIMES |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1615 S. 22nd Street | Fridays: 8am - 11am |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 209 W. Orchard Street | Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:30am- 12:15pm Wednesdays: 9am -10:30am |
| 10230 W. Fond du Lac Avenue | Tuesdays: 4pm -6:30pm Saturdays: 9am-11:30am |
| 1220 W Vliet Street | Wednesdays - Fridays: 8am - 11am |

Virtual Drives

Stretch your dollar! For every \$5 donated, NourishMKE feeds 1 person for 5 days. Consider maximizing your impact by encouraging your family and friends to donate to our general operating funds. Some people find virtual fundraisers easier than bringing in actual food. They'd rather just write a check or click a button. For that reason, we've found virtual drives are a nice complement to food drives, especially since some people like that NourishMKE can stretch their dollar by purchasing food in bulk for less. This also ensures we have appropriate variety on our shelves to provide a healthy, culturally appropriate diet for all community members.

A virtual fundraiser would look similar to the link below:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/NourishMKE-community-ministries-inc/fundraise-for-us>

Most elements of the page are customizable and we're happy to set it up for you. Once created, you'll get a link you can circulate to friends and colleagues. For example, your page might say "Help purchase a new fridge!" or "Help feed 50 families!". It's up to you to create your fundraising goal. Talk with our staff to get ideas of what has worked in the past.

There are so many great ways to host an event that benefits NourishMKE. NourishMKE staff can help with planning, promotion and inspiration. For more information on fundraising for NourishMKE Food Centers, please contact our Executive Director at director@NourishMKE.org

Here are some great examples of successful types of events to get you started:

- Virtual Food Drive
- Donate Your Proceeds
- Involve Your Kids
- Host an Event

Christmas Toys

The need is typically higher during the holiday season as families balance necessity and celebration. Help us bring joy and cheer to our families by contributing a gift for our annual Christmas gift giveaways. If you are interested in participating, we accept toys, games, and books for children (age 0-17) starting October 1st - December 15th. Contact our Volunteer & Development Coordinator at abby@NourishMKE.org.