

Creative Theme Ideas for Food Drives



Giving your food drive a theme is a great way to get people excited about participating.

Here are some suggestions to make your Food and Fund Drive unique:

- **Denim Days** – one of the easiest and most effective ways to raise money in workplaces. Employees can pay \$5 to dress down for a day. Give every employee who participates a sticker, so they can show their support. Place a sign in the reception area announcing the Denim Day to alert clients and visitors of why employees are dressed down. Appointing a few employees per floor/section to help with the collection of money is a great way to make the employee campaign manager's job easier!
- **The Guessing Game** – fill a large jar with virtually any item as long as it takes a lot of them to fill the jar. Candy is a great item. Participants then pay \$1 to guess how many items are in the jar. The closest guess wins the contents of the jar.
- **Ice Cream Social** – what better way to get everyone's attention than an all you can eat ice cream social! Participants give a donation for all the scrumptious ice cream and toppings their stomachs can hold.
- **Movie Night** – this is a great idea for those who work or go to school in a building with a media room that has a large screen. Ask for a \$2 donation to see the movie and \$1 for a bucket of popcorn.
- **Guess the Baby** – we all have at least one embarrassing baby picture buried in our photo albums. Display baby pictures of each participant and have a contest to see who can guess who the babies are! Sell guess sheets for \$5.
- **Bake Sale** – ask your participants to put on their baking caps and try out a new recipe. Cookies, candies, cakes, pastries—anything sweet will do. You can charge by the plate or per item. Leftovers? Don't worry have a 1/2 price sale at the end of the day.
- **Game Night/Lunch** – host a game night or lunch party. Whether it is Bunco, Euchre, Dominos, Poker or your favorite board game, this is bound to be fun. The host provides refreshment (or do a potluck) and prizes if you wish. Ask participants for a \$10 donation as their entry fee.
- **Challenges** – encourage different departments/grades to challenge each other to see who will raise the most donations. Keep a running tally posted in a visible area. Offer a pizza party or doughnut breakfast to the winning group.
- **Develop a theme for the event** – structure your fund/food drive on a seasonal timeframe or a special event, i.e. CEO's birthday, Back to School, Company Anniversary, etc.
- **Set a poundage or financial goal for your office or school** – offer a reward, maybe a casual day, free lunch or pizza party,
- **Award participants** – give gift certificates to departments that generate the most funds/food.
- **Have a lottery** – set an amount of donations to earn a ticket to be entered into the lottery. Winning tickets will be awarded a prize, i.e. dinner for two, gift certificates, gas cards, electronic gadget, etc.
- **Request a tour of the Greater Chicago Food Depository** – ask your department or group to [tour](#) the facility to get a first-hand look at the Food Depository and what is involved in the day to day operations.

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- **Company support** – already hosting an event? Ask each participant to donate funds or food for that event.
- **Dedicate your food drive** – select one or two of our most needed items and employ a catchy title for your group and see which group/department can collect the most food - "People for Peanut Butter, Stewards of Stew, Bean Duty", etc.
- **Conduct community events** – host a friendly competition bake sale, cake-walk, BBQ dinner, chili cook-off, car wash, multi-family (department) yard sale, etc.
- **Sell special treats** – have your top cook make that one-of-a-kind, always requested food dish and offer samples for a donation throughout the day.
- **Hold your own CANstruction** – host a can building competition with all canned donations being sent to the Food Depository. Visit www.canstruction.org for incredible inspiration.
- **Host food themed donation days** – Macaroni Monday; Tuna Tuesday; Whole Grain Wednesday; Peanut Butter Thursday; Fruity Friday.
- **Stuff a Truck** – form a human chain and stuff a truck (or a car) with donated food.
- **Create giant thermometers** – watch each department team race to the top!