

Food Drive Guidelines

Before you make plans, please contact the Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf (“FOTV”) at (952) 595-5980 ext 111 to:

- Agree on date(s)
- Find out what FOTV needs
- Learn FOTV’s policy on expired products
- Arrange drop-off details



**Ask us about our
grocery cart or
bins as collection
points**

E-mail us at info@vcsmn.org

Great times to organize a food drive for FOTV:

- **winter through early spring** (Jan. through April)
- **summer vacation months** (July and August)
- **early fall** (Sept through mid-October)

Why not all year? Annual U.S. Postal Food Drive every May provides all the food we can handle for May and June. Please time your drive to provide food when FOTV needs it most.

Tips for a successful food drive:

- **Promote your drive a week in advance** to give people time to shop.
- **Hand out a shopping list** of items FOTV needs most at the time of your drive. Consider a theme, such as breakfast items, “meals in a can,” a holiday, or foods for kids’ lunchboxes.
- **Ask donors for unopened, non-perishable food items that have not reached their “sell by” date.**
- For workplace drives, **ask the company to offer a matching gift.** Encourage competition. Recognize the group that brings in the most food.
- **Let people know they can write a check** to FOTV if they prefer.
- **Decorate and label collection boxes.** Tape bottoms securely.
- **Build time into your schedule for you to check the expiration date on each item.** (Don’t bring expired products to FOTV; throw out or recycle them yourself.)
- **Deliver the food to FOTV at a previously-arranged time.**
- **Thank donors afterward, in whatever way you recruited them.** Post thanks on Facebook and Twitter; e-mail friends and colleagues; replace your promotional poster with a thank-you poster. Consider sharing a photo of all the food you collected, or info about how much was donated.

Thank you for partnering with the Fruit of the Vine; your contributions will help us feed over 100K people each year.