



Inter Parish Ministry

Feeding Families.
Nourishing Souls.

Collection Drive Kit

A guide to collection items for IPM's Choice Food and Clothing Pantry



Thank you for your interest in hosting a collection drive for Inter Parish Ministry. Whether you are collecting canned foods, personal care items, clothing or other seasonal items like back-to-school or holiday gifts, your support is greatly appreciated.

This packet has been developed to help you start your collection, to give you useful tips and to ensure your drive is a success. Hosting a Collection Drive for IPM is a fun and easy way to engage friends, family and co-workers in supporting a worthy cause.

Why host a Collection Drive? Families living in your community often lack access to affordable, nutritious food. In fact, Ohio's food insecurity rates are higher than the national average. One in five children in counties served by IPM is at risk of food insecurity.

You can make a difference!

HUNGER FACTS

Food in-se-cu-ri-ty
[food insecurity]
NOUN -
The state of being
without reliable
access to a
sufficient quantity
of affordable,
nutritious food

**Every day, more
than 800 million
people live with
hunger or food
insecurity**

**Food insecurity
exists in every
county in America**

**Ohio's food
insecurity rate is
one of the highest
in the country
at 16%**

LET'S GET STARTED!

1. CALL OR EMAIL IPM

The first step is to contact IPM. IPM's goal is to make hosting a Collection Drive as easy as possible by providing ideas, logos, posters, collection bins and more. You can contact Alida Hart at IPM by calling 513.561.3932 or alida@interparish.org.

2. PLAN AND PREPARE

Each Collection Drive can be customized to fit your organization's interests or abilities, whether you are part of a large corporation, school, church, neighborhood group or family.

SELECT A THEME

Breakfast items, personal care items, healthy snacks, PB&J, spring cleaning, are just a few suggestions. IPM will be on hand to offer up ideas.

SET A GOAL

Goals give participants something to work toward and a way to measure success. Set a number goal of a certain item or set a goal to collect a set number of pounds. You can count and/or weigh your items or IPM is available to assist.

INVOLVE

Make participation easy. Incorporate your collection into an event such as a company picnic or holiday party. Hold a friendly competition between company departments, schools, neighborhood businesses or sports teams. Come up with an incentive or prize to build energy and excitement around your competition. *(Note: if you are holding a competition, please mark your collection bins so IPM can weigh donations separately.)*

PICK A TIME FRAME

Ideally 2 – 3 weeks is recommended. This gives participants enough time to get their donation in without losing a sense of excitement and urgency.

3. PROMOTE

Spread the word! The more people know about your Collection Drive, the more you will collect. IPM will help with marketing ideas for your collection and will provide links to access logos and poster designs. Here are a few suggestions:

- Leverage social media – be sure to tag IPM on Facebook and Instagram, so IPM can help spread the word on your Collection Drive

- Distribute shopping lists and critical needs items to participants (these will be provided to you)
- Send email reminders to your staff or group

4. DELIVER TO IPM

Whenever possible, IPM prefers you to drop-off your Collection Drive donations to either the Newtown or Amelia location. If you need assistance, simply call IPM and we will arrange the pick-up for you.

IPM will weigh all donations so you can report back to your participants how much was collected. If you held a competition between departments or groups, IPM will weigh each separately to ensure you can announce the winning team.

If you would like, IPM can take a photo and post on social media to help celebrate your success.

5. THANK YOU

End your Collection Drive by thanking everyone who donated and let them know how much food or other items you collected. IPM can provide a customized thank you note or email template.

Be sure to take photos of what was collected and share on social media.

Consider making your Collection Drive an annual event!



ABOUT IPM

Since 1964, Inter Parish Ministry (IPM) has been helping families in need. The organization began when members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church started a nursery school and outreach program to help families living in the stilt homes along the Little Miami River. IPM is now supported by over 40 churches from nine denominations as well as businesses, individuals, schools and community groups. In addition, IPM collaborates with the FreeStore Foodbank, Clermont County Safety Net Alliance, OSU Extension Clermont County and other agencies. All work together to provide basic needs and food resources to families and seniors who live in eastern Hamilton, western Brown and Clermont counties in Ohio.

This aligns with IPM's mission to provide food, clothing and other communal support to those in need and to empower clients with information, support and services to improve their lives.

IPM has Choice Food and Clothing Pantries in Newtown and Amelia, Ohio. The Amelia pantry was opened in 2016, offering better access to residents of southeast Clermont County. Both offer a Choice Food and Clothing Pantry, Mobile Pantries, Community Gardens, Back-to-School Backpacks & Supplies, Holiday Programs and Emergency Assistance. IPM serves more than 4,400 families each year.

Beginning in 2018, IPM changed the pantry visit requirement from 90-days to 30-days and made dairy and fresh produce available.

Newtown Pantry

3509 Debolt Road
Newtown, Ohio 45244
Drop off donation hours: Monday – Wednesday |
9:00am – 4:00pm

Amelia Pantry

1075 W. Ohio Pike on K of C Drive
Amelia, Ohio 45245
Drop off donation hours:
Wednesday – Friday | 9:00am – 3:00pm

Contact IPM: 513.561.3932 or info@interparish.org

IPM FACTS

16,000 pounds of food is provided to families each month

22,000 individuals served each year

Over 14,000 volunteer hours provided each year

Over 150,000 pounds of food is donated to IPM each year

Current Programs:

- Choice Food & Clothing Pantry
- Mobile Choice Food Pantry
- Emergency Assistance
- Community Gardens
- Cooking Classes
- Back to School Program
- Holiday Programs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR FOR A COLLECTION?

Anytime! Collection Drives are a great year-round activity. IPM's need for food is highest in July, August and September. Here is a list of ongoing IPM drives should you want to coordinate:

- February is IPM's annual Caring from the Heart Month where IPM collects personal care items like soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products and diapers.
- March is IPM's Spring Cleaning Month where IPM collects cleaning products.
- July is IPM's Back-to-School Drive where IPM collects school supplies for families in need.

WHAT TYPES OF ITEMS ARE NEEDED THE MOST AT IPM'S PANTRY?

IPM is grateful for any and all donations, but items that are always in demand are:

- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned pineapple
- Cereal
- Rice and beans
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham)
- Paper towels
- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo and conditioner

WHAT ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE DONATED?

IPM is unable to accept the following donations:

- Expired items
- Opened or partially used items
- Food canned at home
- Food without a label
- Medication (prescription or over-the-counter)
- Baby formula

Please try to avoid items in glass jars as it can break easily during delivery.

CAN SOMEONE FROM IPM COME TO MY SCHOOL, ORGANIZATION OR WORKPLACE AND SPEAK?

Yes! IPM has staff and volunteers that would be able to talk to your organization about hunger and the impact it has on our community. Please contact Alida Hart at 513.561.3932 or alida@interparish.org to schedule.

CAN MONEY BE DONATED INSTEAD OF ITEMS?

Yes! Monetary donations can yield more food for IPM since IPM can purchase food at a deeply discounted rate through food banks such as Freestore Foodbank and Master Provisions. If you are having a friendly competition in the Collection Drive you are hosting, you can set guidelines such as \$1.00 = 2 pounds of food.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION?

The easiest way to donate is online at IPM's website: www.interparish.org. Simply click on the DONATE NOW button in the upper right corner. Make a notation in the PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAIL box stating the name of the food drive and, if you are in a competition, include the department, group or team you are representing.

WHAT DOES IPM PROVIDE?

IPM will provide everything to help you get started including posters, flyers, collection bins, pantry critical needs list, social media support and thank you templates. Also, IPM can provide a 200lb, 40 gallon corrugated box with IPM's logo for use; however, you are free to use your own bin.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact Alida Hart at IPM by calling 513.561.3932 or alida@interparish.org. IPM looks forward to assisting you in your Collection Drive. Thank you!