



FOOD FOR NEIGHBORS®

Group Volunteering Made Easy!

Thank you for your interest in supporting Food For Neighbors! We're tackling teen food insecurity by connecting supplemental food, toiletries, and grocery store gift cards with students in need. Whether you're a school group, business, or community organization, here are easy and meaningful ways to get involved as a team:

[Small Group Volunteer Opportunities](#)

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Updated October 15, 2025



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To learn more about our mission, visit www.FoodForNeighbors.org or email GetInvolved@FoodForNeighbors.org.

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Small Group Volunteer Opportunities

Join us for one of our five annual [Red Bag Events](#), where volunteers collect, sort, and distribute thousands of pounds of food and toiletries in just one morning!

➡ This activity is only available for groups of **12 or fewer volunteers**.

How to participate as a group:

1. Choose a group leader.

This person will handle the sign-up for your group. One leader can sign up a **maximum of 6 volunteers**. To sign up 7-12 people, you'll need to identify a co-lead. Confirmation emails will be sent to group leaders (and co-leaders).

2. Our sign-up opens two weeks before each event at 8:00 a.m.

Slots fill quickly, so set a reminder! Slots are first come, first served!

- **Select your preferred location.** We currently host 10 sorting sites throughout Northern Virginia. Groups of 6 can sign up together; two smaller groups may choose different sites.

3. Event day check-in

Every adult (18+) must sign in and complete a waiver. You can [find our waiver here](#) to share with your team ahead of time.

- There are additional requirements for students ages 9-17 attending without a parent. Please visit our website for [more info](#).

4. After the event, we hope you will [contact us](#) to share your feedback, a testimonial from your group and/or pictures.

📌 Learn more about our events: www.FoodForNeighbors.org/red-bag-program

📌 Sign up: www.FoodForNeighbors.org/events



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Host a Food Drive

Gather your team to collect much-needed items to support local students.

➡ This activity is suitable for organizations of all sizes.

Steps to organize a Food Drive:

1. Choose a Red Bag Event date to support.

We host [five Red Bag Events](#) throughout the school year. Pick one that fits your schedule and plan your food drive to wrap up just before that date. Your group will bring all collected donations directly to the Red Bag Event, where they'll be sorted and distributed to local students that same day.

2. Submit our Group Volunteer Form.

Once you've selected your date, please complete our [Group Volunteer Form](#). **This step is required** so we can coordinate the most convenient drop-off location for your group. It also helps us prepare our team to receive and sort your donations efficiently. After you submit the form, our staff will follow up to confirm details and answer any questions.

3. Use our grocery list to collect the appropriate items.

Download and share our [official grocery list](#) with your members to ensure donations match the items most needed by students and school pantries. We encourage groups to set a collection goal (such as a certain number of bags or pounds of food) to make the drive fun and motivating.

4. Deliver your donations on event day.

On the Red Bag Event morning, bring your collected items to your assigned dropoff location **between 9:00–9:30 a.m.** Volunteers will be ready to unload your vehicle and sort your donations.

✉ Interested in getting started? Please complete our [Group Volunteer Form](#) for more details and next steps.



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FOOD FOR NEIGHBORS®

Host a Food Packing Event

Can't make it to a Red Bag Event or have more than 12 participants? Host a team-building project at your own space! Together, your group can purchase, pack, and deliver shelf-stable food directly to partnering schools.

 This activity is suitable for organizations with a budget of \$2k or larger.

Start planning your project!

- Choose a date (and a backup date), your location, and a team leader.
 - We'll coordinate with you on the date to make sure school is in session, we have a guest speaker and we have enough bins to hold your donation.
 - Having a few date options is helpful!
- Establish your project budget. Food Packing Events can be organized starting at a minimum \$2,000 investment.
- Determine the number of people who would like to participate in the project.

What you'll provide:

- All the food and gallon Ziploc bags. We recommend ordering from Amazon (and ship to your office), or purchase from Costco.
- Tables for sorting and packing food
- Some carts or flatbeds for moving filled bins
- Trash cans and bins for recycling

We're here to help! We'll provide:

- Optionally, a guest speaker to come talk about our mission
- Bins for your completed food packs
- Details for the delivery of your food and drop-off coordination
- Guidance on planning and purchasing

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Assemble Red Bags

Red Bags are our signature way of collecting food donations. Your group can help assemble the bags by attaching the tags and grocery lists. We'll provide all materials to assemble them and package them in boxes for us to distribute to our areas.

➡ This activity is suitable for organizations of all sizes. *Please note this volunteer opportunity is only available on a very limited basis.*

✉ Interested in getting started? Please complete our [Group Volunteer Form](#) for more details and next steps.



How to Build a Red Bag



1

Put one bag tag into a plastic sleeve.



2

Attach the tag to the bag handle with a zip tie.



3

Fold the bag in half, tuck in the handle/tag, and add it to the box.



Each box gets 50 folded bags.

Now your bag is complete!



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FOOD FOR NEIGHBORS®

Explore Creative Giving Opportunities

Looking for a meaningful way to support Food For Neighbors while meeting your organization's philanthropy goals? Consider becoming a Financial Partner with Food For Neighbors. There are many creative ways that an organization, big or small, can help support local teens.

Host an Online Fundraiser

We'll set you up with a custom donation page, flyer, and QR code—perfect for sharing with your team or community. Set your goal, and track your donations easily.

➡ This opportunity is suitable for organizations of any size.

Be a Matching Donor

Match contributions during one of our major campaigns to double the impact.

➡ This opportunity is suitable for organizations with a budget of \$2,000 or larger.

Sponsor a School

Provide gift cards for the most vulnerable families at one of our partner schools or sponsor one of our Red Bag Events.

- **Choose your amount to donate.** A \$1,500 gift will provide gift cards needed for students at two schools.
- **Let us direct your gift.** 100% of your donation will be used for the purchase of gift cards at participating schools that need them most, helping feed as many students as possible.
- **Make an impact!** Your donation goes directly to local teens in need. Thank you for helping us fight hunger and bring hope this spring!

➡ This opportunity is suitable for organizations with a budget of \$750 or larger.

Be the Sponsor of a Red Bag Event

Support one of our biggest community efforts! As a Red Bag Event sponsor, your group will receive reserved volunteer spots, brand visibility on our signage, special recognition in our newsletter and social media, along with other meaningful benefits. Please contact us today for more details.

➡ This opportunity is suitable for organizations with a budget of \$25,000 or larger.

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Capture & Share the Moment

We love seeing our volunteers in action—and so does the community! Be sure to take photos or short videos during your project to celebrate your team's impact and inspire others to get involved. You can find lots of ideas on our website to help [spread the word](#)!

After your project:

- Post your photos on social media and tag @FoodForNeighbors
- Use hashtags like #FoodForNeighbors and #TeamUpToHelpTeens
- Send a few favorite shots to GetInvolved@FoodForNeighbors.org so we can highlight your group in our newsletter or social media
- Share a quick recap with your internal team or company newsletter to keep the good vibes going and remind everyone that they can keep giving back as a Red Bag Food Donor.

Your support doesn't just make a difference—it sets an example. Let's show what teamwork and community care can do!



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Quick Links on our Website

[Group Volunteering Form](#)

Complete this form when you are ready to begin with a food drive, a food packing event, an online fundraiser or any other activities with your business or organization. We'll send you all the details you need to get started!

[Red Bag Program Info](#)

Learn more about how we collect and distribute food through our Red Bag Program.

[Red Bag Event Volunteer Sign-up](#)

Complete this form if you would like to volunteer as a driver or sorter for our Red Bag food collection events, held five times a year.

[Donation Page](#)

Click here to make a tax-deductible donation.

[Become a Red Bag Food Donor](#)

Complete this form if you would like to become a Red Bag food donor. We collect food just five times a year to fill local school pantries.

[Community Partner Information](#)

Learn more about how your business can partner with us to provide financial assistance for our programs.

[Messaging Hub](#)

Help us spread the word with flyers, social media posts, and messaging. Great resources for your food drive and food packing events, too.