



Stamp Out Hunger 2013 **Customizable Talking Points and Q&A**

Talking Points

On Saturday, May 11th, you can help [Insert City]'s letter carriers *Stamp Out Hunger* to provide assistance to the millions of Americans struggling with hunger.

- Simply leave donations of non-perishable food items, like soup, canned meats and fish, canned vegetables and fruit, as well as peanut butter, pasta and rice, next to your mailbox before the time of your regular mail delivery.
- [Insert City] letter carriers will do the rest, collecting the donations and delivering them to food banks and pantries in the community.

Now in its 21st year, the *Stamp Out Hunger* effort is the nation's largest single-day food drive, with more than one billion pounds of food donated since its inception in 1993.

- Last year, more than 70 million pounds of food were donated, which marked the ninth consecutive year that at least 70 million pounds were collected.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 50 million Americans, including nearly 17 million children, are food insecure, meaning they live at risk of hunger.

- Food banks rely heavily on donations and need to be replenished constantly, especially in the summer months when supplies are often low and children are out of school.
- According to Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic-hunger-relief organization, 1 in 8 Americans are served by the network of more than 200 food banks each year.

Campbell Soup Company, a long time supporter of *Stamp Out Hunger*, will kick off the effort with a donation of one million pounds of product to Feeding America member food banks.

- The company also sponsors postcards and shopping bags that are mailed to more than 75 million homes as a reminder to participate in the drive.

Program Specific Questions

What is *Stamp Out Hunger*?

Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest single-day food drive and is run by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Since 1993, the nation's letter carriers have collected food donations from generous Americans, like those in [Insert City], every second Saturday of May and delivered them to food banks and pantries in their local communities. Now in its 21st year, the drive has surpassed one billion pounds of food collected for Americans struggling with hunger, and more than 70 million pounds of food collected for nine consecutive years.

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How can people participate in the food drive?

On Saturday, May 11th, simply leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable food items, like canned soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, rice or cereal, next to your mailbox before the time of regular mail delivery. [Insert City] letter carriers will then collect the donations and deliver them to food banks and pantries in the local community. Make sure that food items are in non-breakable containers, such as boxes and cans.

Does every city participate?

More than 10,000 local cities and towns across all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions, including [Insert City], participate in *Stamp Out Hunger*.

How serious of a problem is the issue of hunger in America?

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual study measuring food security in the United States, more than 50 million Americans are food insecure, meaning they live at risk of hunger. Perhaps most alarming, of this total, nearly 17 million children struggle with hunger. Food banks rely heavily on donations and need to be replenished constantly, especially in the summer months when supplies are often low and children are out of school. The *Stamp Out Hunger* effort comes at a perfect time to make sure that food banks are continually stocked. To find your local Feeding America food bank, visit www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank.

What prompted the letter carriers to start this program?

Many of the nation's letter carriers see how hunger affects the communities that they live and work in every day. The members of the National Association of Letter Carriers felt that the *Stamp Out Hunger* program was a way for them to make a difference in the fight against hunger.

Who decides where the donations are distributed?

On the local level, the food drive is executed by branches of the National Association of Letter Carriers. These local branches work closely with hunger-relief agencies such as [Insert Local Food Bank Partner] to make sure that the food that is donated benefits the local area.

I don't have a mailbox. How can I make a donation?

Some people who don't have a mailbox can leave it on the porch. Also, a number of metropolitan post offices across the country have special collection boxes at their offices. We recommend contacting your local post office or Feeding America food bank to find out how you can help! Visit www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank to find a food bank in your area.

Where can I find out more about the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive?

Just ask your letter carrier, contact your local post office, visit either www.helpstampouthunger.com or www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger, or follow the drive at www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger to learn more about this important initiative.

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