

**Food and Fundraising Ideas for Schools, Businesses & Organizations**

**Funds vs. Food:** Through Second Harvest Food Bank’s buying power and relationship with local growers, we are able to purchase food for pennies on the dollar. As a result, donating funds provides for more food to the community. **Every $1 dollar is turned into 4 healthy meals.**

**Setting Goals:** Setting a goal is a good way to motivate employees, family, friends and neighbors to donate and provides a sense of accomplishment at the end of your drive.

**Spread the Word:** Let everyone know you are hosting a food/fund drive. Use social media to share the link to your online fundraising page, send emails, post flyers and posters, schedule a field trip or tour to the food bank.

**Ideas for schools:**

* **Virtual Barrel:** It takes $25 to fill a barrel. $1 = 4 healthy meals.
* **Competition:** Students that earning volunteer hours by participating in the food/fund drive. Create friendly competitions between grade levels, class rooms, and or students vs staff.
* **Themes** Peanut Butter & Jelly or Rice & Bean Challenge (see who can bring in the most.
* **“Stick it to Hunger”** students can purchase 1 ft of duct tape that is used to tape a willing staff member to a wall during lunch.
* **Take donations** or donate a portion of the ticket sales to school athletic events and dances.
* Find a **business to match** the schools donations.

**Ideas for businesses and organizations:**

* **“Around Town”** Encourage your employees to attend other fundraising events in the community (i.e. restaurants donating a portion of sales to Second Harvest).
* **”Artwork at Work”** display and sell employee artwork and crafts
* **Sell Great Stuff:** pumpkins decorated with succulents, Cookbooks with recipes from employees/members of your organization, Poinsettias for the holidays, used books, special shirts or sweatshirts for employees to wear during the fundraising campaign
* **Sell Great Food:** Breakfast tamales (Tamale Tuesdays), Pozole, Hot dogs, Popcorn, Carnitas Bowl, BBQ (maybe not all on the same day 😊)
* **Bake Sales** or Homemade pies and deserts to purchase for Thanksgiving from expert employee bakers.
* **Rummage Sales**
* **Pop up Farmers Market** at work
* **Paint Night** at Carmona’s in Watsonville or The Painted Cork in Santa Cruz
* **Gift Theme Basket raffles and silent auctions**: for chefs, for dates, wine & dine, gift cards, lottery tickets, beauty & health, etc.
* **Coin toss**
* **Raffles** (a day off, a leave work early day, preferred parking day, donated items,sporting event tickets, restaurant certificates etc.) or 50/50 cash raffle
* **Events:** ”XYZ Company’s Got Talent” talent show (charge fee for participants and attendees), Bowling Tournament, Casino Night, Carnival (dunking booth, caramel apples, penny throwing and pie eating contest)
* **”Bring Your Lunch Day”** or “**Coffee for Food Day”** (skip the dining out or morning espresso and donate the money).
* **“Empty Your Pockets Day”** (collect spare change from everyone in the office).
* **Place Mini barrels** at front counters and breakrooms
* **Company match:** Distribute information on how to become a Second Harvest “Sustainable Partner” through monthly employee payroll deductions and/or matches, etc.

**Online:** Use social media to promote online giving to your team donation page. This is the most convenient way to give.

**Note on food donations:**

Collect only non-perishable food items. No glass containers, please. We cannot accept any homemade items.

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**Register Your Food Drive Online:**

www.thefoodbank.org/hero