



RESCUING FOOD FOR NYC

150 52nd Street
Brooklyn, NY 11232
cityharvest.org | 646.412.0600

October 2026

Dear Friends of City Harvest,

Right now, nearly 50% of working-aged households are struggling to make ends meet. With cuts to federal food assistance programs continuing to go into effect, many of our neighbors are turning to City Harvest and our partner food pantries and soup kitchens to help put nourishing food on their tables. Your support is essential to provide our neighbors with the food they need this winter. Please support City Harvest as we once again partner with the *New York Daily News* to host the *Daily News Food Drive*, running from **Tuesday, October 20, 2026 through Friday, January 15, 2027**.

Enclosed you will find information and materials to help run a successful food drive and share with your participants. For additional information, including a full list of drop off locations, please visit cityharvest.org/dailynews, call us at 646.277.7800, or email fooddrives@cityharvest.org. Through our *Kids Can Help Competition*, the school in each borough with the top food drive collection will win a prize from our partners at Macmillan Publishing!

City Harvest trucks will pick up donations of 100 pounds or more. Collected food can also be dropped off at your local firehouse or police station and participating Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, Queens Public Library, or Apple Bank locations. Additionally, you can run an online food drive through our partners at #GiveHealthy for delivery to the City Harvest warehouse.

Thank you for helping City Harvest put food on the tables of our neighbors in need!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jilly".

Jilly Stephens
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Did you know City Harvest welcomes school groups for field trips to our Food Rescue Center in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, to learn about our work and participate in hands-on volunteer activities? For more information, visit cityharvest.org/schools.

DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

How To: Run An In-Person Food Drive

For more than 40 years, City Harvest and the *Daily News* have partnered each fall to host New York City's largest food drive, taking place this year from **Tuesday, October 20, 2026 through Friday, January 15, 2027**. With nearly 50% of working-aged households struggling to make ends meet and cuts to federal food assistance programs continuing to go into effect, running a food drive gives children at your school an opportunity to make a difference and helps City Harvest provide nutritious food for families in need.

Through our *Kids Can Help Competition*, the school in each borough that runs a drive and collects the most food will win a prize from our partners at Macmillan Publishing!

If your school would like to run an in-person food drive, below are some helpful tips on how to get started.

Starting your food drive is easy as 1-2-3!

1. **Select dates for your food drive.** We recommend running your drive for at least two weeks any time between Tuesday, October 20 through Friday, January 15.
2. **Set up a sturdy collection bin in a high-traffic area and hang flyers** (download additional materials at cityharvest.org/dailynews).
3. **Spread the word.** Send the flyer included in your toolkit home to parents or post about the drive on your class or school website. See our "Tips for Running a Successful Food Drive" sheet for ways to engage your students.

Important things to know:

- Most needed items include: canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned proteins (e.g. tuna or beans), canned soups, peanut butter (plastic jars), macaroni and cheese (packaged), hot and cold cereal (packaged, family-sized), and juice packs. *Note: City Harvest cannot accept unlabeled or dented cans, open packaging, products that need to be refrigerated, homemade foods, or expired products.*
- When you've collected at least 100 pounds of food or more (est. one can = one pound of food), contact City Harvest by calling **646.277.7800** or emailing fooddrives@cityharvest.org to schedule a pickup through January 31. You must schedule at least seven days in advance of your desired pickup date. Donations of less than 100 pounds can be dropped off at your local firehouse or police station and participating Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, Queens Public Library, or Apple Bank locations. For a full list of drop-off locations, visit cityharvest.org/dailynews.

Preparing for your food drive pickup:

On the day of your pickup, please make sure that:

- Your food is packed in sturdy boxes **weighing 50 pounds or less**.
- The boxes must be located on the ground floor, ready for our driver.
- See more helpful tips in the "Getting Ready for Your Food Drive Pickup" flyer.



DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

How To: Run An Online Fresh Food Drive

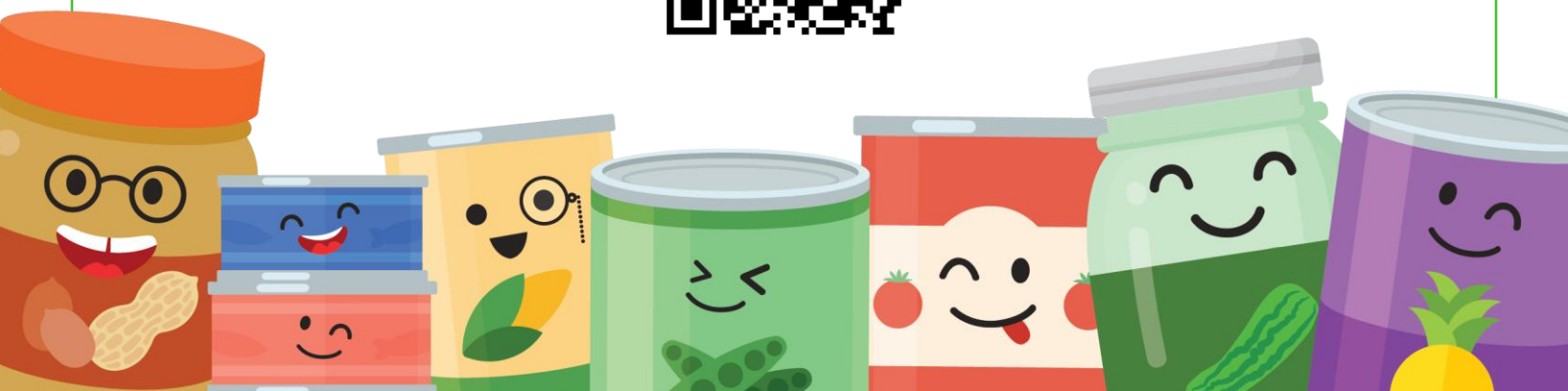
For more than 40 years, City Harvest and the *Daily News* have partnered each fall to host New York City's largest food drive, taking place this year from **Tuesday, October 20, 2026 through Friday, January 15, 2027**. With nearly 50% of working-aged households struggling to make ends meet and cuts to federal food assistance programs continuing to go into effect, running a food drive gives children at your school an opportunity to make a difference and helps City Harvest provide nutritious food for families in need.

If you would like to run an online fresh food drive through our partners at #GiveHealthy, please visit cityharvest.org/dailynews or scan the QR code and follow the instructions below.

Setting up your online fresh food drive:

- 1) Start your online food drive through [#GiveHealthy](#), which provides users the opportunity to order fresh and frozen produce, as well as non-perishables, to be delivered directly to the City Harvest warehouse.
- 2) Share the customized link to your food drive page with your school's community through email, social media, or newsletters. Participants will be able to select food items to purchase directly through your page.
- 3) Send periodic updates on progress and reminders to donate. We recommend one kick-off message, one mid-way through the drive, and one when you're in the final stretch.
- 4) After your drive has ended, you will receive a tax acknowledgment from the #GiveHealthy and a food drive certificate of participation from City Harvest.

For any questions or for help setting up your online food drive, please contact us at **646.277.7800** or email fooddrives@cityharvest.org.



DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

Tips For Running A Successful Food Drive

Running a food drive is easy! Get students involved by using creative ways to make collecting food fun.

Through our *Kids Can Help Competition*, the school in each borough that runs a drive and collects the most food will win a prize from our partners at Macmillan Publishing! Here are some ideas to help make your food drive a success:

- **Have a friendly competition among students.** Involve the entire school by doing a grade- or class-level competition and create a leaderboard showing the amount of food collected for each class. Have a district-wide competition with other participating schools in your district.
- **Create a classroom goal thermometer** to set and track milestones.
- **Post updates in public areas and make weekly announcements** to let the class know how they're doing and what is needed to reach their goals.
- **Motivate the kids by offering a prize** for the top collector in your class or school and remind your students that the top school in each borough also receives a prize!
- **Publicize the drive.** Make announcements in assemblies, over the PA, and in communications to parents. Hang the posters included in your toolkit around your school and use them to decorate your collection bins. Downloadable posters are also available at cityharvest.org/dailynews.
- **Run "day of the week" drives based on our most-needed items, such as: *Mac & Cheese Monday*, *Tuna Fish Tuesday* or *Canned Fruit Friday*.** Most needed items include: canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned proteins (e.g. tuna or beans), peanut butter (plastic jars), macaroni and cheese (packaged), hot and cold cereal (packaged, family-size), soups, and juice packs.



DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

Attention Parents: The *Daily News Food Drive* Is Here!

For more than 40 years, City Harvest and the *Daily News* have partnered each fall to host New York City's largest food drive. This year, your support is more important than ever as nearly 50% of working-aged households are struggling to make ends meet and cuts to federal food assistance programs continue to go into effect. By participating in the *Daily News Food Drive*, your child will help keep shelves stocked at food pantries and community food programs across the five boroughs. Running a food drive gives children at your school an opportunity to make a difference and helps City Harvest provide nutritious food for families in need.

Each participating school will be entered into the *Kids Can Help Competition*. The school in each borough that collects and donates the most pounds of food between **Tuesday, October 20, 2026 and Friday, January 15, 2027** will be awarded a prize! Donations for this competition must be received by January 31.

Your school's drive will run during these dates:

(Schools, please fill in before copying and sending home to parents.)

Most Needed Items:

- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned proteins (e.g. tuna, beans)
- Peanut butter (plastic jars)
- Macaroni and cheese (packaged)
- Soups
- Hot and cold cereal (packaged, family-sized)
- Juice packs

Note: City Harvest cannot accept unlabeled or dented cans, open packaging, products that need to be refrigerated, homemade foods, or expired products.

Interested in donating funds?

Every \$1.23 donated helps City Harvest feed a New York City family in need for a day. To donate, visit cityharvest.org/dailynewsdonate

For more information on the food drive, visit cityharvest.org/dailynews or contact City Harvest at **646.277.7800** or fooddrives@cityharvest.org



DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

Atención, Padres: ¡Llegó la Colecta de Alimentos de *Daily News*!

Por más de 40 años, City Harvest y el *Daily News* han trabajado juntos cada otoño en la colecta de alimentos más grande de la ciudad de Nueva York. Este año su apoyo es más importante que nunca, cerca del 50% de los hogares con integrantes en edad laboral enfrentan dificultades para cubrir sus necesidades básicas, mientras continúan entrando en vigor los recortes a los programas federales de asistencia alimentaria. Al participar en el *Daily News Food Drive*, su hijo estará ayudando a que no falte comida en las despensas y programas comunitarios en los cinco condados de la ciudad. Organizando una recolección de alimentos les da a los niños de su escuela la oportunidad de marcar la diferencia y ayudar a City Harvest a proporcionar alimentos nutritivos a las familias necesitadas.

Todas las escuelas que participen entrarán en la competencia "*Kids Can Help*" (*Los Niños Pueden Ayudar*). La escuela de cada condado que logre recolectar y donar más libras de comida entre **el martes 20 de octubre de 2026 y el viernes 15 de enero de 2027** recibirá un premio. Las donaciones para esta competencia se aceptarán hasta el 31 de enero.

La colecta de su escuela se realizará en estas fechas:

(Las escuelas deben completar la información antes de enviar el volante a los padres).

Los alimentos más necesarios:

- Fruta enlatada
- Verduras enlatadas
- Proteínas enlatadas (por ejemplo, atún o frijoles)
- Sopas enlatadas
- Mantequilla de maní (en frascos de plástico)
- Macarrones con queso (empaquetados)
- Cereal caliente y frío (empaquetado, en tamaño familiar)
- Paquetes de jugo

Attention: City Harvest no acepta latas abiertas, dañadas, sin etiqueta, productos que necesiten refrigeración, hechos en casa, o expirados.

¿Le interesa donar fondos?

Cada \$1.23 donado ayuda a City Harvest a alimentar a familias necesitadas en Nueva York por un día. Para donar visite cityharvest.org/dailynewsdonate.

Para obtener más información, visite cityharvest.org/dailynews o comuníquese con City Harvest al **646.277.7800** o envíe un correo a fooddrives@cityharvest.org.



DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

Most Needed Items

Please help fill this box with food to
help feed New Yorkers in need!

Canned fruit

Canned vegetables

Canned proteins (e.g. tuna, beans)

Canned soups

Peanut butter (plastic jars)

Macaroni and cheese (packaged)

Hot and cold cereal (packaged, family-sized)

Juice packs

For more information, visit cityharvest.org/dailynews
or contact fooddrives@cityharvest.org



DAILY NEWS FOOD DRIVE

October 20, 2026–January 15, 2027

Getting Ready for Your Food Drive Pickup

Thank you for collecting donated canned and packaged food for the *Daily News Food Drive* running from **Tuesday, October 20, 2026 through Friday, January 15, 2027**.

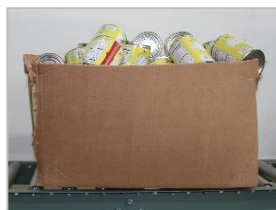
1. Pack your donations in sturdy boxes weighing no more than 50 pounds for safe lifting (see below images for reference).
2. On the day of pickup, have your collection boxes at the street level or accessible via elevator with no steps or stairs in the way so our driver can safely maneuver the hand truck.
3. Make sure that you're onsite during the agreed upon pickup window, and feel free to give our driver a hand loading the truck when they arrive.

How to Pack Your Donation Boxes



Correctly packed food drive box. Box dimensions: 19"x13"x11". Weighs no more than 50 pounds.

How Not to Pack Your Donation Boxes



The box is filled past the folding flaps, and is ripped, making it likely to break when lifted, and causing the cans to fall out.

For more information, visit cityharvest.org/dailynews
or contact fooddrives@cityharvest.org

