

ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE

Fighting Hunger, Homelessness & Addiction in Southwest Florida

Revised: 06/29/26

How to Host a Food or Hygiene Drive

A simple do-it-yourself guide to caring for our neighbors in Southwest Florida

Thank you for your interest in supporting St. Matthew's House. Hosting a food or hygiene drive is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to care for our neighbors in Southwest Florida. Every item you collect helps feed those in our care: families shopping our Community Choice Pantry; guests of our soup kitchen, where hot meals are served to the community every day; residents of our Campbell Lodge and Fort Myers Shelter for Women & Children; and the men and women in our year-long addiction recovery program.

We've made running a food drive easier than ever. **For most drives, there's nothing to order and no paperwork — you can start today.** Just follow these three steps:

Step 1: Get Ready

Gather your group — your coworkers, congregation, team, neighbors, or family — and set a simple goal and timeframe. Most drives are easy to run on your own: collect and drop off, using Steps 2 and 3 below.

Planning a large drive? If you anticipate collecting a substantial volume — generally 1,300 pounds or more — please contact us in advance at foodassistanceprogram@stmatthewshouse.org so our team can coordinate logistics and scheduling with you.

Step 2: Collect the Most-Needed Items

Add a few items to your cart on your regular grocery run, or invite your group to fill a box or bag together. A good rule of thumb: if you'd be happy to serve it to your own family, it's perfect for those in our care. Please donate **unopened, non-perishable** items that are **within their "best by" date**.

Most-Needed Food Items

- Peanut butter and other nut butters
- Canned proteins — tuna, chicken, salmon
- Canned beans (black, pinto, kidney)
- Canned soups, stews, and chili
- Canned vegetables and fruit (in juice)
- Rice, pasta, and pasta sauce
- Cereal, oatmeal, and granola bars
- Macaroni and cheese, and boxed meals
- Shelf-stable and powdered milk

Note: Pop-top cans are a wonderful bonus since not everyone has a can opener. Fresh and refrigerated foods are welcome, too! See Step 3 for our warehouse drop-off. We're unable to accept expired or opened items, homemade or home-canned foods, glass containers, or items without a nutrition label.

Most-Needed Hygiene Items

Food assistance benefits don't cover personal-care items, yet they're some of the most requested and most expensive essentials for families making hard choices.

- Soap, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Deodorant, lotion, and sunscreen
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Razors, shaving cream, and toilet paper

Step 3: Drop Off Your Donations

When your drive wraps up, bring your non-perishable food or hygiene items to either of our two Thrift Store locations. Please come during store hours and let a team member know your donation is for the **Food Assistance Program**.

Naples

St. Matthew's House Thrift Store
2601 Airport-Pulling Road South
Naples, FL 34112

Mon-Sat, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fort Myers

St. Matthew's House Thrift Store
13140 Metro Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33966

Mon-Sat, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Donating fresh or refrigerated items? We gladly accept perishable foods at our Food Assistance Warehouse, 4535 Domestic Avenue, Naples, FL 34104 – Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (closed weekends).

Your Impact

Every item goes straight to work for our neighbors. Just one grocery bag (about 10 pounds of food) provides roughly **8 meals**. A drive that collects 500 pounds provides more than **400 meals** and nearly **\$950 in groceries** for families in need. Thank you for being a hero in your community.

Prefer to Give Online?

Shop our Amazon Wish Lists and have items shipped straight to those in our care:

- **Food Pantry & Meals** — www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2GHKLCX0LAGUZ
- **Campbell Lodge Shelter** — www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30JROON2U6U1G/
- **Fort Myers Shelter for Women & Children** — www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/F95QLTCNF3WO/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Tips for a Successful Drive

1. Set a goal and a timeframe — a two- to three-week drive with a clear target keeps everyone motivated.
2. Make it friendly — a little competition between departments, classrooms, or teams goes a long way.
3. Spread the word — share your drive by email and social media, and tag @stmatthewshouse so we can celebrate you.
4. Pick a theme — “Souper Bowl” soup drives, “Fill a Bag” challenges, or peanut-butter-and-jelly or pasta and sauce weeks make it fun.
5. Short on time? A monetary gift lets us stretch every dollar into even more meals and fresh food.

Questions? We're here to help.

Attn: Food Assistance Program

St. Matthew's House | 2601 Airport Road South, Naples, FL 34112

Email: foodassistanceprogram@stmatthewshouse.org | P: (239) 774-0500

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St. Matthew's House® 

FOOD DRIVE



Scan to Donate Through
Our Amazon Wish List

Every
donation
makes a
difference!

ITEMS NEEDED:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| ▶ Canned Beans | ▶ Cereal | ▶ Rice |
| ▶ Canned Fruit | ▶ Mac & Cheese | ▶ Pasta |
| ▶ Canned Protein | ▶ Peanut Butter | ▶ Canned Soup |
| ▶ Canned Vegetables | ▶ Jelly | ▶ Shelf-Stable Milk |