

## Starting a Neighborhood Food Pantry Recipe For Success

### Ingredients:

Volunteers looking for a place to actively live out their faith by feeding their neighbors  
An assortment of nutritious fresh and non-perishable food

### Where to Find Special Ingredients:

Food drives conducted by churches, businesses, and non-profit organizations  
Large local food banks  
“Retail Rescue” from grocery stores

### Equipment and Tools Needed:

Storage area and shelving to hold an abundance of non-perishable food items  
Season with refrigerators and freezers for fresh foods (if desired)  
Bags for packaging food (if a drive-through pantry fits your tastes)  
Tables to display food (if a walk-through pantry is palatable)  
Computer software and laptop for tracking the number of neighbors served

### Preparation:

Assess neighborhood to determine whether those who need food have access to kitchens

- Collect foods for healthful meals that include fresh produce, milk and eggs, if neighbors can prepare food at home; or
- Collect foods that are easy to open and can be heated in microwaves, if neighbors are unhoused

Arrange food on shelving units as it arrives  
Obtain food handler’s licenses (for several, but not all, volunteers)  
Advertise pantry days and hours through local non-profit organizations  
Pre-bag food for drive-through models  
Set up tables for market-style walk-through models

### Time It Takes:

As little as two weeks from preparation to serving!

### What to Watch For:

Seeing each neighbor the way God sees them!

### How To Know You’re Ready To Serve:

Gather volunteers regularly to pray together to end their spiritual hunger. Remind them why they are doing the work to end physical hunger for their neighbors. When God’s light shines through your volunteers as they prepare to share God’s love, serve your neighbors immediately!

### Plating:

Mix all ingredients together and combine with connections in the community to make this a transformational dish!

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