

SHD Fact Sheet

What is the Student Hunger Drive?

The Student Hunger Drive is a campaign to collect and donate food to the River Bend Foodbank by area high school students. This food drive not only helps to fill our local foodbank but to also instill a sense of volunteerism and community in area youth. The Student Hunger Drive takes place in the fall and will officially begin on October 5th.

How do Students Participate?

Students participate through their local high school. With the help of a faculty advisor, student teams plan events to promote the Drive, organize their food collection, as well as package and deliver food to the River Bend Foodbank. Students are recognized for their efforts at an awards party on the last day of the Drive. Prizes are awarded for different levels of achievement and for the creativity of their events promoting the Drive. All schools raising at least three pounds of food per student receive participation funds, which may be used to offset Student Hunger Drive expenses, or for other projects, or as donations to other non-profit agencies in their communities.

How long has the Student Hunger drive been in existence?

The Student Hunger Drive celebrated 30 years of helping in 2015. This incredible organization was founded in 1986 by Pete Pohlmann, then President of Lujack's Autoplaza. For the first seven years of the Student Hunger Drive, Lujack's was the sole sponsor. The Student Hunger Drive, Inc. was created in 1993 as a non-profit organization.

Where does the food go?

Food collected from the Student Hunger Drive is delivered to the River Bend Foodbank, located in Davenport, IA. The Foodbank serves 22 counties in Iowa and Illinois. Food collected from the Student Hunger Drive will be distributed in Rock Island, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Henry and surrounding counties to over 300 different agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, day care centers, and rehabilitation centers. Agencies receiving food donate a shared maintenance contribution of 18 cents per pound of food to the River Bend Foodbank. This donation helps to cover the cost of storage, refrigeration, distribution, and more importantly, makes it possible for area agencies to receive the food they need to feed the hungry in our community. We also find that the small fee charges encourages agencies to only take what they need so there is more to go around for everyone.

Quick Facts

- In 22 counties served by River Bend Food Bank 131,900 are Food Insecure
- 23.4 Million meals are being missed annually
- More than 1/3 are children under the age of 18
- 70% of those served by the Foodbank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel
- Over 13 million meals have been provided by the Student Hunger Drive since its inception. Over 16 million pounds of food has been collected and distributed
- The Student Hunger Drive is a separate organization from the River Bend Foodbank, but all food goes directly to the foodbank