



*Children Helping Children*

## HARVEST DRIVE FOOD COLLECTION AND FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**\*\*\*In order to make your fundraising and collection more meaningful and successful, please refer to the “Suggestions to inject the Harvest Drive into your curriculum” document found on the Harvest Drive website.**

Put a link from your school website to the Harvest Drive.

<http://www.harvestdriveflorida.com>

Set up Parent Link phone calls as reminders to bring in non-perishable items.

### Proven Successful Strategies -

- Make a competition between grades and/or teams.
- Talk it up on the announcements every day, even pre-food collections, by building up anticipation for the Harvest Food Drive.
- Share a different Hunger Fact every day on morning announcements and have teachers discuss hunger in their classrooms
- Have signs around the school and in the car line, use the robot caller, your website, texting and any other means of social media that you use to get the word out to your students and parents
- Have your Student Leaders or aftercare sort, throw away the expired food, and box the food up for delivery
- Take pictures of your students with Releases. Share those pictures on your school website.



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### **Divide your non-perishable collections list by grades:**

**As an example, ask each student to bring in some of the items listed below, by grade:**

**Pre-K:** Large Toothpaste, Napkins, or Canned Cranberries.

**Kindergartners:** Dish soap, Peanut Butter or Jelly

**First Graders:** Juice (apple or grape), Cereal/Oatmeal or Cookies

**Second graders:** Canned Gravy, Shampoo, Canned Tuna/Meat or Canned Fruit.

**Third Graders:** Stuffing, Spaghetti Sauce or Soap/Body Wash.

**Fourth Graders:** Canned Vegetables, Laundry Detergent or Canned Soup.

**Fifth Graders:** Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Pasta, Rice or Aluminum Foil.

\*\* make sure you assign items of varying cost to each grade level in order to ensure that most students are able to participate.

### **Fundraise with a Harvest Tree:**

Cut out paper leaves and a tree trunk. For every item brought in, write the child's name on the leaf and put it on the tree trunk displayed in a prominent place. Offer a prize for the grade with the most leaves.

### **Have a school-wide Paper Chain Competition**

- Assign a color to each grade.
- Cut strips of construction paper (according to color and grade level).
- As students bring in \$1.00 or a non-perishable item, add a link to the paper chain.
- The chains can be displayed in the cafeteria or the front office (to keep kids from bothering them).
- The grade with the longest chain gets recognition on announcements or some type of reward. (IE: Double recess one day for that grade OR bargain with your assistant principal to do something like "kiss a pig" if their grade wins!! **(Motivation and incentives work!)**)

***Make cards for the families and include the name of your school (not individual student names). This could be an educational writing or poetry lesson. (These cards will go in the grocery bags given to the families at the distribution school) Remember to include them with your food collection!!***

*Continue on for more great ideas as told by participating schools.*



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## Harvest Drive Success Stories From Your Schools!

The kids are really involved this year since each AP has agreed to do something crazy if their grade level brings in the most. Our 8th grade AP will be shaving his head live during morning announcements and spray-painting his head. **(Get the whole school involved, have contests and challenge the students. You can make a version of this work for elementary as well.)**

*Ms. Gisela Suarez  
New Renaissance Middle School*

Our school has been collecting so much food; our students are excited about giving back to their community. The class with the most non-perishable items on the list will win a prize. Winn Dixie of Davie and One Fist Ryders Bike Club are hosting a Food Drive for our benefit to be held on November 4th from 12-4 pm.

**(Use your community resources to help – call your partners)**

*Amrita Sookhansingh  
Village Elementary School*

We are done with our first week and have one more week to go to collect goods. We offered the children a no uniform pass if they brought in at least 5 non-perishable items.

*Sarah Wawerek  
Eagle Point Elementary*

We are really excited about our Barnes and Noble Book Fair Night in which we are asking all participants to donate a canned good upon entering. Every student who participates in our food drive receives a "No Uniform Pass". We will see how this idea works. **(No uniforms for a day can be a real motivator at all levels)**

*Harbordale Elem  
Jennifer Kashdin*



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\*\*\*\*\*We just completed our food drive. It will take me a week to make sure everything is in boxes to be ready for pick up by next Friday. I have a parent helping me find boxes with lids for transporting items. (Hint: use your cafeteria apple or tray boxes) Last year we collected just under 1300 items, but this year we collected just over 2300 items!! Why the difference? For every 5 items students brought in, they received a coupon to be used during PTA Ice Pop Friday. Who knew the power of an ice pop?? I was torn about giving a reward for helping others. We have always reiterated that we help other people without personal reward. However, I've learned that one good gesture deserves another and we had an overwhelming amount of food brought in to share with our community.

Liz McGuire, Norcrest Elementary

\*\*\*Bennett Elementary has our Harvest Drive collection well underway lead by our Bennett Student Council and teacher/sponsor Mr. Michael Malone. Our students, teachers, and families are determined to help the less fortunate. We are doing daily reports on our closed-circuit TV station WBESTV. Prizes and pizza parties are going to the classes that bring in the most donations. We are recognizing individual students also. If you are looking for a great elementary school to highlight, come see us. I am so proud of our students and our school. We are a Title I school with 91% Free/Reduced and still, our families reach out to those less fortunate. (Sometimes, with motivation, those with less bring more!)

Chris W. Carney, Principal  
Bennett Elementary School

\*\*\*At Dolphin Bay Elementary we have had a couple of days where students can wear certain colors of clothes if they bring in \$1.00 and a canned good or toiletry item. So far, we've raised a little over \$900.00 and we still have another day prior to being done. We hope to be able to surpass our goal from last year, which was a little over \$1,000.00. We used this money to purchase a ton of cereal for the drive.

Suzan DeMeo, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership  
Dolphin Bay Elementary



\*\*\*Lake Forest Elementary held a Yummy Raffle with donated baked goodies from the faculty! All donations will be raffled to the staff only, with donations going towards gift cards for our Harvest families.

Lake Forest also did a silent auction for the staff, with donated treasures from the faculty!

The Sunshine Organization at Lake Forest Elementary held a “Bowling for Turkeys” fundraiser. This is where they take Rock Cornish Hens and use them as bowling balls! Lots of fun... They are splitting the funds they raise with the Harvest Drive! The funds will help us buy gift cards for our Harvest families.

**The Power of the Harvest Drive is in our numbers. By each of us sharing a little, we create a very large result. Each of you is a key ingredient to the success of the Harvest Drive.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT ANY OF THESE IDEAS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSON WHOSE NAME IS UNDER THE IDEA OR JUST EMAIL AMY FREUND at [afreund@bellsouth.net](mailto:afreund@bellsouth.net)

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE EVERY HARVEST DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS BY TEACHING YOUR STUDENTS THAT THEY ARE ESSENTIAL MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY AND BY SHOWING THEM THAT THEIR ACTIONS CAN MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS AND OTHERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING. YOU ARE DIRECTLY IMPACTING THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Please continue to send your successful ideas to [afreund@bellsouth.net](mailto:afreund@bellsouth.net). We want to highlight your efforts and share these ideas with other schools throughout the County.