



# **Neighborhood Food Drives Starter Packet**

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**Donations will be given to:  
Norcross Cooperative Ministries  
2275 Mitchell Road  
Norcross, GA 30071  
[www.norcrosso-p.org](http://www.norcrosso-p.org)  
770-263-0998**

# Food Drive – A Bridge to Transformation

*God Story from Unite! Compassion in Action 2004  
Drue & Laura Warner (678-405-2227)*

This past year, during Unite! Compassion in Action, we coordinated a neighborhood Food Drive. We had only been in our subdivision for about a month and a half, but this was a great opportunity and we didn't want to miss it. Our vision for our neighborhood is much larger than collecting food. We are committed to Perimeter's vision of *"Bringing greater Atlanta into a life transforming encounter with the Kingdom of God"* and we believe that transformation first occurs in the following order: individually, in our families, in our neighborhoods, communities, cities, states, countries and world. Therefore, we decided to focus on the next line of progression in our lives, our neighborhood. We want to encourage you (through this story) that God can do incredible things through you just in having a simple, but incredibly effective "bridge" to your neighborhood, like a Food Drive. Ours is just a work in progress (and very new at that)!

On Oct. 2 (during Unite! Compassion in Action Weekend), we held a subdivision Food Drive to benefit a local food bank. Over 100 bags of groceries were donated by neighbors, and about 10 neighbors signed our "sign up" form expressing interest in community building activities. Then, the next week at our annual Homeowner's meeting (we believe providentially planned), we introduced ourselves and reported the Food Drive results. Immediately, more people wanted to get their names added to our list so they could be kept in contact of neighborhood opportunities.

So, now we have about 35 families and their contact information. We've had 2 informal gatherings to discuss ideas. From those meetings, we've had about 15 volunteers come forward to serve as "block captains" to help distribute invitations and build relationships with their neighbors. That way, we can better connect the whole neighborhood. In addition, I mapped out the whole neighborhood, and we're developing a directory of the people interested in building community so they can connect with each other and set a strategy for meeting other neighbors.

This year for Halloween, we (along with other neighbors we've recruited) coordinated a Halloween Meet & Greet at the clubhouse / pool area. Would you believe that we had over 200 people in attendance? Of the 200, we had an additional 35 families sign our "sign up" list bringing our total to about 70 households! Incredible! We've connected with about 8 other families that are professing believers, so we'll try to connect with them to cast vision for an eternal impact in our community. Perimeter Church has a passion for "community transformation" and we believe it starts in our own neighborhoods, so it will be interesting to see what God has in store for our neighborhood.

Where do we see this going? We're hoping and praying for God to give us a good name in the neighborhood and that many friendships will develop, so that when spiritual opportunities are offered, we'll see a good response. Other ideas include a book club, Christmas caroling, an Easter Sunrise Service in the neighborhood, and much, much more. Be creative and have fun!

# Neighborhood Food Drive

## OVERVIEW

Impact our community in a big way by encouraging your neighborhood to provide food for needy families! Make it easy for them by picking up the food from their driveways or holding a “drop-off get-together” at a central place like the playground or pool. A head start of 1-2 weeks is advisable.

### ***GREAT REASONS TO HOLD A FOOD DRIVE!***

- A small effort can produce a large result.
- It's a great way to meet the neighbors you haven't met in order to build relationships, while serving the community together.
- It's a ministry opportunity ideal for singles, groups, families, and children.
- It is easy to do, not overwhelming for any one person, with limited and flexible time commitment.
- It is a great way to help your neighbors serve others in need. Most people want to, but don't know what or how to donate. You'll make it simple for them.
- The Gospel can go with you across the relational bridges built with others in your neighborhood simply because you have a legitimate and excellent reason to “knock on their door.” As relationships develop, friendships form. Through friendships, the love and hope of Jesus Christ can be introduced.

***WHAT ARE COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES?*** The Norcross Cooperative Ministry is a Christian organization providing local families in need with food, clothing, financial assistance for rent & utilities, employment assistance, and prayer support. **Thousands** of people are helped each year! They are supported by area churches, individuals, and a few corporate and foundation donations. Norcross Coop is primarily staffed by volunteers, and you are welcome to join the team!

### **Norcross Cooperative Ministries**

2275 Mitchell Road  
Norcross, GA 30071  
770-263-0013

[www.norcrossco-op.org](http://www.norcrossco-op.org)

# Step by Step Procedures

## **1. DISTRIBUTE FLYERS (1-2 Weeks Prior to Drive)**

A suggested flyer is included in this packet. Feel free to edit as needed. You may want to include your designated food pick-up date / time or include a contact name and phone number so people can call with questions or to volunteer to help.

You will need to make as many copies of the flyer as you have homes in the neighborhood.

### ***If you'd like to include envelopes for financial donations...***

Be sure to address the envelopes with mailing labels for Norcross Cooperative (see below). Labels can be printed on your computer, or you can contact Community Outreach at 678-405-2122.

Norcross Cooperative Ministry P.O. Box 1489 Norcross, GA 30071
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*Staple the envelope and flyer / food list to the bags.*

*If grocery bags are not used and you intend to use envelopes, staple or stuff the flyer.*

**FLYER DISTRIBUTION:** Assign streets or sections of your neighborhood to your group of volunteers. Approximately 7-10 days ahead of the collection, distribute the bags with the flyer / food list attached throughout the neighborhood, placing them on front porches, tucking them into the front door or other visible place. Be respectful of your neighbors -- don't tape to their doors. (Mailboxes should also not be used—it is against federal law!) It would be fantastic if you were able to knock on doors and make personal contact. If you have a neighborhood email list and it is permissible to use it, send out a notice that way as well.

### **GROCERY BAGS:**

- Option A     Have contributors use their own grocery bags
- Option B     Provide a grocery bag to contributor (from local grocery store)

### ***If option B, read the following suggestions.***

If you choose to use grocery bags, ask for donations of paper grocery bags from local grocery stores. It is always helpful to identify yourself and what church you're representing. At the service counter, ask for a customer service manager or store manager. Explain that the bags will be used for a food drive conducted by your church members to benefit local Co-op food pantries. A Unite! Donations request letter is available for your benefit from Drue Warner, Perimeter Church at 678-405-2227.

Be sensitive to the fact that these bags are somewhat costly to the stores. They may not wish to give a large quantity at one time. If you need a lot, try to get bags from several different stores. *Thank store manager profusely!*

## **2. PUT YARD SIGNS IN NEIGHBORHOOD (One week prior)**

We recommend that you put a few yard signs out in your neighborhood to remind and give information to your neighbors of the upcoming Neighborhood Food Drive. There may be yard signs that you can use, or they can be ordered. For yard signs, contact Drue Warner, Perimeter Church at 678-405-2227.

## **3. COLLECT FOOD DONATIONS (Day of Drive)**

There are a couple of options regarding food donations collection.

- a. Arrange for a central drop off location in your neighborhood (i.e. community pool, clubhouse, tennis courts, your house, etc). Consider having refreshments available (coffee and donuts, lemonade, etc.) which will tend to encourage people to stay and converse. In addition to serving the community, this could be a good opportunity for neighbors to meet each other, thus developing a greater sense of community.

Try to arrange for a drop off time that is convenient for as many neighbors as possible who may want to donate groceries (i.e. 8am – 2pm).

- b. Arrange to drive through neighborhood and pick up grocery donations left for you on driveways and/or porches. Be sure to leave (or mail) a thank you note to each person giving. You can always print a general thank you note and make multiple copies to be given out. Tax receipts can be provided by contacting Norcross Cooperative at 770-263-8268.

If you decide to pick up donations from driveways, be sure to include this information and instructions on the flyer.

## **4. SIGN UP SHEET**

If you choose to collect food donations at a central meeting place, you may want to offer the opportunity for neighbors to sign up for awareness of future serving opportunities. If you do this, be sure that you are prepared to follow up! ***Refer to last sheet in this packet.***

## **5. DELIVER FOOD TO CO-OP (Preferably, Same Day as Drive)**

Take food to the designated Co-op. Directions may be included. Be sure to call ahead to arrange for a delivery time.

PRE-SORT - If you have the manpower, it is helpful to do a rough pre-sort of the food. For example, bag or box together the canned vegetables, the cereals, the pastas, tuna, etc.



[www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org)

## **Neighborhood Food Drive Flyer Benefiting the Norcross Cooperative Saturday, October 2**

Unite! is a gathering of over 60 local churches working together to serve needs in our community. Our Neighborhood Food Drive is 1 of over 150 service projects occurring throughout Northeast Atlanta on this weekend. For more information, visit [www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org).

Norcross Cooperative Ministries is a community and church supported organization that assists local families in need with food, financial assistance, and clothing. They help approximately 1000 families each month. Neighbors representing local churches are conducting a food drive to help keep the pantry shelves stocked. Through the generosity of our neighborhood, we hope to help Norcross Cooperative Ministries meet every legitimate request and need for food. You can visit their website at [www.norcrossco-op.org](http://www.norcrossco-op.org).

### **Food Items Needed**

<b>canned tuna &amp; chicken</b>	<b>macaroni &amp; cheese</b>	<b>boxed potatoes</b>
<b>peanut butter</b>	<b>cereal</b>	<b>powdered milk</b>
<b>cooking oil</b>	<b>pasta &amp; rice</b>	<b>toilet paper</b>
<b>canned vegetables</b>	<b>spaghetti sauce</b>	<b>diapers, esp. larger sizes</b>
<b>canned fruit</b>	<b>sugar</b>	<b>laundry detergent</b>
<b>baby food</b>	<b>fruit juice</b>	<b>toiletries: soap, shampoo,</b>
<b>deodorant</b>		

If you prefer to make a financial contribution in addition to or instead of food donations, checks should be mailed to Norcross Cooperative Ministry (2275 Mitchell Road Norcross, GA 30071). Donations are tax-deductible.

### **Donation Instructions**

*(Food Drive Coordinator – Circle One)*

**Drop off food donations on Saturday, October 2 at \_\_\_\_\_**

**OR**

**Leave food donations in your driveway on Saturday, Oct. 2, and we'll pick up!**

***Thank you for your generosity!***



CHURCHES PRAYING, SERVING AND  
CELEBRATING TOGETHER

[www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org)

# Food Drive Saturday

**See Flyer for Details.**



September 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Harvey Anderson, and I am the Project Coordinator for *Compassion in Action Weekend* to be held on October 2 & 3, 2004. *Compassion in Action Weekend* is a part of Unite! which is a movement among churches joining together to serve and bless individuals, families, and children in need throughout the city of Atlanta. We are expecting upwards of 100 churches and 10,000 participants to serve Northeast Atlanta in a wide variety of ways. More information on Unite! is available at [www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org). It is our great desire to partner, not only with churches, but also with local businesses. Therefore, Unite! would like to invite your business to serve with us in several different ways.

First of all, we invite you to serve by contributing resources that may be needed for service projects. The items that you choose to donate will be used strictly for the projects and persons served during *Compassion in Action Weekend*.

Secondly, Unite! invites you to join participating churches in helping to underwrite the expenses of *Compassion in Action* through your financial contributions.

Lastly, we invite you to provide man-hours through your employees, and to join us as we serve our community. A list of *Compassion in Action* service projects is available at [www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org) (click on Serving Opportunities).

In closing, I want you to know that the person submitting this letter to you is a volunteer who has donated much time, effort, and energy to serving the needy in our community, and is committed to this endeavor. We appreciate any role that you will play in partnership as we take one step at a time towards building a better community, one person at a time. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this request or Unite!

Blessings,

Harvey Anderson  
Unite! Leadership Team  
HarveyA@perimeter.org  
[www.UniteUs.org](http://www.UniteUs.org)  
678-405-2107

