

END SUMMER HUNGER

How your business,
school, or group
can make an impact
this summer.



Welcome to the Cause

Thank you for your interest in hosting a food or fund drive with Hopelink! End Summer Hunger is our effort to collect food and raise funds to help bridge the gap in access to regular, healthy meals for kids who receive free and reduced-price meals during the school year. As the school year comes to a close, so do these school-sponsored meal programs. But by supporting our End Summer Hunger campaign, together, we can help children and families in our communities maintain access to nutritious foods all summer long.

Aside from being easy, fun and rewarding, one of the best things about leading a food or fund drive with your team, family, place of worship, business, or peers, is the opportunity to unite for one common cause.

This toolkit includes:

- Steps to host a *food drive*
- Steps to host a *fund drive*
- Tips and resources to help spread the word
- FAQs

If you have questions about creating your food or fund drive, accessing drive supplies, or anything else related to End Summer Hunger or Hopelink, I'm happy to help. Just email me at drives@hopelink.org or give me a call at 425.869.2440.

Best,

Debbie Fellows (she/her)
Development Specialist,
Community Engagement

1 IN 6
CHILDREN IN AMERICA
live without consistent
access to food
Source: US Dept. of Agriculture ERS, 2022

Hopelink's Food
Assistance program
experienced a **15%**
MONTHLY INCREASE
in usage, serving an
additional 1,200 people
per month on average.
July 2024 – Jan. 2025 Source: Hopelink Center
Services Report, CaseWorthy database

17,730
CHILDREN IN KING COUNTY
rely on school-sponsored
meal programs
Source: Office of Superintendent
of Public Instruction, 2022-2023

Host a Food Drive

Thank you for hosting a food drive. Over the summer, members of our community visit Hopelink Food Markets in need of nutritious food for their families. But they come away with more than that; they come away with culturally relevant, nutritious, and kid-friendly food as well as a renewed sense of dignity and hope, knowing that they are not alone and can count on Hopelink. By hosting a drive, you are helping ensure our neighbors have access to healthy, nutritious foods over the summer months.

How do our neighbors reach the food items from our food drive?

After donations arrive at Hopelink Food Markets, they are sorted into appropriate categories by volunteers and placed onto shelves for our neighbors to take home.

What items can I collect in my food drive?

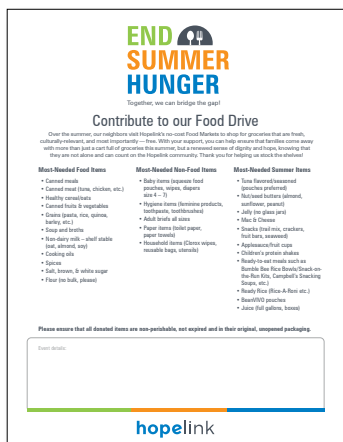
Please [click here](#) to see a full list of our most needed items. We can't accept expired, opened, or damaged food; meat that isn't USDA grade; clothes, shoes, or accessories; home goods or appliances; medicines; or alcohol.

Do I need to tell anyone that I am coming to a Hopelink Market to drop off donations?

We find it helpful if you're able to schedule your drop-off with Debbie so that she can give the appropriate food market staff a heads up. Debbie can be reached at drives@hopelink.org or 425-869-2440.

Do you need drive supplies?

Hopelink is here to support your drive. We have collection sleeves and crates, flyer templates, posters, and social media graphics to raise awareness and inspire people to contribute to your drive.



[Download this flyer](#) to promote your food drive!



Need sleeves or crates? [Contact us](#) to request items.

END SUMMER HUNGER

Together, we can bridge the gap!

Contribute to our Food Drive

Over the summer, our neighbors visit Hopelink's no-cost Food Markets to shop for groceries that are fresh, culturally-relevant, and most importantly — free. With your support, you can help ensure that families come away with more than just a cart full of groceries this summer, but a renewed sense of dignity and hope, knowing that they are not alone and can count on the Hopelink community. Thank you for helping us stock the shelves!

Most-Needed Food Items

- Canned meals
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Healthy cereal/oats
- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Grains (pasta, rice, quinoa, barley, etc.)
- Soup and broths
- Non-dairy milk – shelf stable (oat, almond, soy)
- Cooking oils
- Spices
- Salt, brown, & white sugar
- Flour (no bulk, please)

Most-Needed Non-Food Items

- Baby items (squeeze food pouches, wipes, diapers size 4 – 7)
- Hygiene items (feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- Adult briefs all sizes
- Paper items (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Household items (Clorox wipes, reusable bags, utensils)

Most-Needed Summer Items

- Tuna flavored/seasoned (pouches preferred)
- Nut/seed butters (almond, sunflower, peanut)
- Jelly (no glass jars)
- Mac & Cheese
- Snacks (trail mix, crackers, fruit bars, seaweed)
- Applesauce/fruit cups
- Children's protein shakes
- Ready-to-eat meals such as Bumble Bee Rice Bowls/Snack-on-the-Run Kits, Campbell's Snacking Soups, etc.)
- Ready Rice (Rice-A-Roni etc.)
- BeanVIVO pouches
- Juice (full gallons, boxes)

Please ensure that all donated items are non-perishable, not expired and in their original, unopened packaging.

Event details:

END SUMMER HUNGER

Most Needed Foods

- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Mac & Cheese
- ☐ Snacks (trail mix, fruit rolls/fruit leather)
- ☐ Nut/seed butters (almond, sunflower, peanut etc.)
- ☐ Ready-to-eat meals such as Bumble Bee Snack-on-the-Run kits and Campbell's Snacking Soups

Donations can be dropped off at any of Hopelink's five Food Markets located in Shoreline, Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, and Carnation. Email drives@hopelink.org for the donation drop-off hours at the location nearest you.

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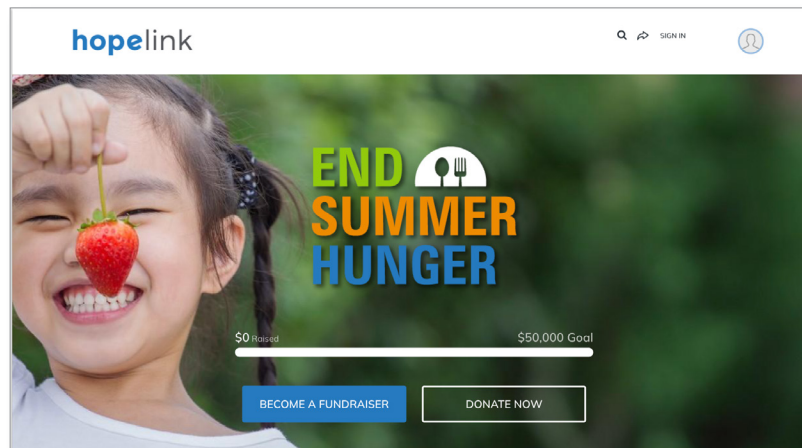
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Host a Fund Drive

When you share your support through a fund drive with Hopelink, not only are you helping raise funds to support critical resources, but your participation fuels important conversations about increasing access to food for families during the summer months.

However you choose to rally your village - whether through a bake sale or team-building event - 100% of your gift directly benefits Hopelink services. Every contribution — no matter the size — makes a difference.



How to Start Your Online Fundraiser

Step 1: Create your online fundraising page

“Click the “Become a Fundraiser” button on our [online fundraising site](#) and you’ll be up and running in no time! Our online fundraising platform allows you to set up an individual or team page. When creating your page, you can choose your fundraising goal and share why Hopelink is important to you and your community. By sharing your passion for giving back, your audience will make a connection to your story and want to be a part of it.

Step 2: Spread the word

Once your fundraising page is set up, get in touch with your friends and family and ask for their support. The more people know, the quicker you’ll reach your goal! We’ve included sample social media posts, tips, and digital assets that you can use in promoting your fundraiser in this kit.

Step 3: We are here to help

Hopelink is proud to partner with you in providing access to culturally relevant, nutritious, and kid-friendly food during the summer months. Please email us at drives@hopelink.org with any questions.

Spread the Word

Download our Media Kit

Download the [media kit](#) to access drive flyers, digital assets such as logos, images and banners to help with your social media posts.

Rally Your Network with Email



Sample email to friends, employees, family, clients:

I am hosting a drive to support Hopelink. My goal is to raise \$(GOAL) and/or to collect (GOAL) pounds of food by (DATE).

Here are three ways you can help:

- 1. Click here to become a fundraiser:** [\(Link to PAGE\)](#)
- 2. Donate food or funds.** Find out more [here](#).
- 3. Help us spread the word!** If you aren't able to donate, please spread the word about our cause on social media, or send a quick email to friends.

Spread the word on Social Media



LinkedIn example post:

A little goes a long way!
Help me support @Hopelink by donating to my fund drive for their End Summer Hunger campaign at {LINK HERE}



Facebook example post:

I'm partnering with @Hopelink to increase access to nutritious foods for children and families throughout the summertime. Help me reach my fundraising goal by donating online [LINK HERE]. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller



Instagram example post:

I'm hosting a fundraiser for @HopelinkHelps, a local nonprofit providing critical services for our community like access to nutritious and kid-friendly food during the summer months. Can you pitch in to support our neighbors? Click the link in my bio join me and #EndSummerHunger #hopelink

Join the conversation using

#Hopelink

#EndSummerHunger

 linkedin.com/company/hopelink

 facebook.com/hopelink

 [@hopelinkhelps](https://instagram.com/hopelinkhelps)

Quick Tips for Success

Start your campaign with a donation

People will follow your lead. By making the first contribution, you will encourage others to become involved.

Make it easy

If you are collecting in-kind items, promote a designated drop-off location for donations. Folks are more likely to engage in your drive if it's easy for them.

Share your passion for the cause

Why is Hopelink important to you? By letting people know where your passion lies, you will help them make a connection to your story and engage in the drive.

Start close to home

Your most loyal supporters will likely be your personal community, i.e. your closest friends and family. You'll feel most comfortable sharing with them, and they are the most likely to donate. Simply start your campaign by sending messages to your community, and encourage them to spread the word to gain more support for your cause. Once you've raised contributions from those close to you, you can reach out to others via email, or using social media templates.

Spread the word

Use social media, email, or word of mouth to get the buzz out about your drive! Creating a hashtag or goal for your drive will get the ball rolling. When you post on social media, don't forget to tag and thank donors while asking for donations from others. This tactic will spread your message further and will help show that people are already getting behind you. Make sure you tag us on each channel and also use the tags **#Hopelink** and **#EndSummerHunger!**

Email follow up

Continue to send emails throughout your campaign; including highlights, milestones, and additional information on why your cause matters. Ask people to help you reach your next milestone or final goal.



FAQs

Is my donation tax deductible, and will I get a receipt?

Yes and yes! When you make a donation online, you will automatically receive a receipt via email. When you drop off at a physical donation, please ask a volunteer or staff member to provide you with a receipt. We can only offer receipts for the donations that are given directly to Hopelink. If your group pools together money to purchase gifts for a drive, we are unable to offer individual tax receipts.

Hopelink is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and your donation is tax deductible. To claim a donation as a deduction on your federal income taxes, please keep your receipt as your official record. Our Tax ID number is 91-0982116.

Who do I make a check donation out to?

Checks can be made payable to "Hopelink" and can be dropped off at any of our centers, or mailed to our administrative office at P.O. Box 3577, Redmond, WA 98073. To ensure that your gift is credited to a specific drive, please note the individual or business's name on the memo line.

How will I know how much my group/business raised?

You will receive a receipt upon dropping off your in-kind donations, which will include the total weight in pounds of food. If you didn't receive a receipt or are inquiring about cash, please contact Debbie at drives@hopelink.org or 425-869-2440. You can view your online fundraising total by visiting your fundraising page.

Want to volunteer with us?

Definitely! Contact the volunteer team at volunteerwithus@hopelink.org or 425.869.6066.



Hopelink Center Locations

Kirkland/Northshore

11011 120th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98033
425.889.7880

Redmond

8990 154th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052
425.869.6000

Sno-Valley

31957 East Commercial St
Carnation, WA 98014
425.333.4163

Bellevue

14812 Main St.
Bellevue, WA 98007
425.943.7555

Shoreline

17837 Aurora Avenue N.
Shoreline, WA 98133
206.440.7300

You can find the preferred donation drop-off hours for each location [here](#).

Markets are closed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Some Friday drop-off hours available by appointment. **If the listed hours don't work with your schedule, please reach out to Debbie at drives@hopelink.org to find a time.**



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