

# Student Food Drive

## 2009 FACT SHEET

### *Mission Statement:*

*To unite and empower area high school students in the commitment to feed the hungry and to promote volunteerism.*

### **What is the Student Food Drive?**

The Student Food Drive is an effort conducted by area high schools to collect and donate food to the River Bend Foodbank. Pete Pohlmann, then the President of Lujack's Northpark Auto Plaza, started the Drive in 1986. For the first seven years, Lujack's was the sole sponsor of the Drive. In 1993, a non-profit organization, The Student Hunger Drive, Inc., was formed. The Drive is held in the fall, and this year will be kicking off on September 28th.

### **Why the name change?**

For the first 21 years of our Drive we were known as the Student Hunger Drive. We've grown a lot since 1986, and the success of our area high schools has drawn national attention as the nation's largest student run food drive. In 2007, Tyson Foods and America's Second Harvest teamed up to take our model to other communities across the nation. All Drives, including ours, are now known as the Student Food Drive. 100% of money donated and food collected stays in our community!

### **How do students participate?**

Students participate through their high school. With the help of a faculty advisor, students plan events to promote the Drive, organize their food collection, and 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, where 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 per student receive participation funds, which may be used to offset Student Food Drive expenses, for other school projects, or as donations to non-profit agencies in their communities.

### **Where does the collected food go?**

The food collected from our Student Food Drive is delivered to the River Bend Foodbank in Moline. The Foodbank serves 22 counties in Iowa and Illinois. Food collected from the Student Food Drive will be distributed in Rock Island, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, and Henry counties to 120 different food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, day care centers, and rehabilitation centers. Approximately 40% of the recipients of this food are children. The agencies donate a shared maintenance contribution of 18 cents per pound to the River Bend Foodbank. This donation helps to cover the cost of storage, refrigeration, distribution, and more importantly, makes it possible for the agencies to receive the food they need when they need it.

### **By the numbers...**

Since 1986, our students have collected **12,191,154** pounds of food, valued at over **\$23.45 million**. Locally, almost **20,000** students attend the **19** participating high schools.

*More questions? Call or e-mail us at 563-359-9389 or [StudentFoodDrive@gmail.com](mailto:StudentFoodDrive@gmail.com)!*