



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

A Guide to Donating Food in D.C.

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Fall 2019**

What is in this Guide?

This guide provides information on the various organizations around the District that accept food donations. Information on what to donate and how to donate is included.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Overview of Food Donations	2
Importance of Food Donations.....	2
Legal Guidelines.....	2
Chapter 2: Organizations Accepting Food Donations	3
Capital Area Food Bank.....	3
D.C. Central Kitchen.....	4
Martha’s Table.....	5
So Others Might Eat.....	6
Thrive DC.....	7
Resources	8

Chapter 1: Overview of Food Donations

Importance of Food Donations

IMPORTANCE OF FOOD DONATIONS:

- In the United States, between 30-40 percent of our food supply goes to waste,¹ yet in the District of Columbia, 10.6 percent of households face food insecurity.² Donating food to local organizations is a great way to reduce food waste and help end hunger in D.C.

Legal Guidelines in D.C.

LEGAL GUIDELINES:³

In D.C., there are two laws that protect food donations: the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (Emerson Act), and D.C.'s Good Faith Donor and Donee Act, amended by the Save Good Food Amendment Act.

EMERSON ACT:³

- All individuals, nonprofits, and businesses are protected provided they meet the following requirements:
 - Food must be donated in good faith (honest belief that the food is safe to eat);
 - Food must meet federal, state, and local quality and labeling requirements (Note: Food can still be donated without this requirement as long as individual informs organization at the time of donation);
 - Nonprofit organization receiving the food must distribute it to those in need; and
 - Final recipient of food must not pay for food
- Gross negligence and intentional misconduct are not tolerated

SAVE GOOD FOOD AMENDMENT ACT³:

- Donors and distributors must meet the three following requirements:
 - Food must be donated in good faith to a nonprofit or charity organization or directly to an individual;
 - The charity or nonprofit must distribute the food in good faith; and
 - The charity or nonprofit may only charge recipients a small fee to cover handling and preparation of the food

Chapter 2: Organizations Accepting Food Donations

Capital Area Food Bank



Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB)

4900 Puerto Rico Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20017

WHO THEY ARE:

- CAFB is an anti-hunger nonprofit and the city's largest food bank serving D.C. and parts of Maryland and Virginia. They provide food, emergency food referrals, and nutrition education to residents and connect individuals and families to the federal nutrition programs.

HOW TO DONATE:

- CAFB accepts unopened, non-perishable food items. Drop offs can be made at the above address Monday – Friday.

MOST WANTED ITEMS:

- Canned or dry beans, peanut butter, canned vegetables (preferably low sodium or no salt added), canned fruits, grains (e.g., rice, pasta, macaroni and cheese), hot and cold cereals, 100% juice, canned tuna/salmon/chicken, and healthy snacks (e.g., raisins, granola bars).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Donations can also be made at the Virginia location (6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, VA 22079 between 8 AM – 2 PM).
- CAFB also accepts donations from grocery stores, wholesalers, and restaurants.
- Individuals and businesses are welcome to host a traditional or digital food drive or donate through CAFB's Amazon wish list. For more information, please visit <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/how-to-help/donate-food/>.

HOURS AND CONTACT:

Regular: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Summer: 8 AM – 4 PM (M-Th); 8 AM – 2 PM (F)
(202) 644-9800

DC Central Kitchen



DC Central Kitchen (DCCK)

425 2nd St., NW

Washington, DC 20001

WHO THEY ARE:

- DCCK is an anti-hunger nonprofit that offers a multitude of services, including culinary job training, nutrition education, food vending for schools and afterschool meals, and fresh produce in corner stores.

HOW TO DONATE:

- DCCK accepts delivered donations and will sometimes pick up donations.
- Send an email to foodrecovery@dcentralkitchen.org and include your name, organization (if applicable), email, phone number, type of food available, quantity or lbs. of food available, pick up or drop off, pick up address, and date/time food is available.

MOST WANTED ITEMS:

- Raw protein and produce

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- DCCK does not accept prepared foods (e.g., catering leftovers).

CONTACT:

FoodRecovery@dcentralkitchen.org

Martha's Table



Martha's Table

2375 Elvans Road SE

Washington, DC 20020

WHO THEY ARE:

- Martha's Table is a nonprofit that provides quality education, health and wellness resources including their Joyful Food Markets and McKenna's Wagon, and family engagement.

HOW TO DONATE:

- Martha's Table cannot accept unscheduled donations. Visit their online calendar to sign up and see what dates are available and what items they are currently seeking: <https://calendly.com/mtdonations>. Donations can be delivered to their Maycroft location.

WHAT TO DONATE:

- Fresh produce, eggs, dairy, beans/lentils (dry or canned), canned vegetables (low-sodium), canned fruit (in water/juice), coffee/tea, canned or frozen chicken/salmon/turkey, whole grain crackers, low-sugar cereal, rolled oats, pasta/tomato sauce, grains/quinoa, nuts, health snacks (unsweetened dried fruit, applesauce, low-sugar oatmeal, breakfast bars, peanut butter)
- Homemade trail mix (with whole wheat/grain cereal, nuts, dried/unsweetened fruit), sandwiches (peanut butter/jelly or meat/cheese; whole wheat bread), and homemade muffins

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Do not include monetary donations with your food donations.
- If you are donating more than two bags of groceries or are interested in cooking a big meal, please call 202-808-8002.
- Martha's Table is unable to accept rice, raisins, or items that are expired or not fresh.
- For specific packaging information for sandwiches, trail mix, and muffins, please visit <https://marthastable.org/give/in-kind-donations/>.

Maycroft Location
1474 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009

(202) 328-6608
info@marthastable.org

So Others Might Eat



So Others Might Eat (SOME)

71 O St., NW

Washington, DC 20001

WHO THEY ARE:

- SOME is a nonprofit that works to help the poor and homeless through providing food, clothing, health care, affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment, and counseling.

HOW TO DONATE:

- You can drop off food items at 71 O Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 on weekdays from 8 AM - 4 PM or on weekends from 7 AM – 2 PM.
- For perishable items, contact SOME at 202.695.7816 or donations@some.org to coordinate a time.

WHAT TO DONATE:

- Peanut butter, low-sodium soup, fresh fruits and vegetables, canned fruit (in juice/water), canned vegetables (no added salt), canned meals, brown rice, whole wheat pasta, pasta sauce, low-sugar cereal and oatmeal, healthy snacks (nuts, popcorn, granola bars, rice cakes), oils, vinegars, condiments, spices, canned chicken/salmon/tuna

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Open or expired items are not accepted.
- During holiday months, SOME accepts special donations, including Thanksgiving baskets. Visit <https://www.some.org/give/donate-goods/holiday-shoebox-gifts> for more information.

CONTACT:

(202) 695-7816

(202) 797-8806

donations@some.org

Thrive DC



Thrive DC

1525 Newton St., NW

Washington, DC 20010

WHO THEY ARE:

- A nonprofit that works to end and prevent homelessness through community meals, crisis intervention services, activities, employment training programs, re-entry programs for individuals recently released from prison, substance abuse counseling, and victim services.

HOW TO DONATE:

- Donations can be dropped off at 1525 Newton St., NW Monday - Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM after contacting staff to let them know when you plan to arrive. Alternate drop off times can be arranged. Thrive can be reached at (202) 737-9311.

WHAT TO DONATE

- The best donations include sandwiches, salads, meat or other protein, coffee/tea/hot chocolate, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, sliced bread, and shelf-stable goods (specifically “pop top” cans of food).
- Prepared foods, frozen foods, dry goods, baked goods, and packaged perishable foods are also accepted. Visit <https://www.thrivedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Food-Recovery-Guidelines-Quick-Reference-Sheet.pdf> for specifics.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Thrive DC is not able to pick up any donations.
- To organize a food drive, visit <https://www.thrivedc.org/donate/inkind/foodwaste/>

CONTACT:

(202) 737-9311

Resources

1. United States Department of Agriculture. Food Waste FAQs. <https://www.usda.gov/foodwaste/faqs>. Accessed November 4, 2019
2. Food Research & Action Center. Household Food Insecurity Rates, 2016-2018. <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/household-food-insecurity-rates-2016-2018> Accessed November 4, 2019
3. Leib EB, Rice C, Nielsen A, et al. Food Recovery in the District of Columbia: A Legal Guide. Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic. 2019. https://dcfoodrecovery.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/food-recovery_d.c._2019.pdf Accessed November 4, 2019