

Pack the Pantry

Looking for an impactful way to help our mission here at the Community Shelter of Union County? Help us pack the pantry with shelf stables necessities!

Who We Serve



311,000 meals a year for families provided by our Drive Thru Pantry



60,300 meals a year prepared by the Soup Kitchen



26,500+ stays in overnight emergency shelter per year



67 new households furnished by our Home Again program



116 individuals per year rehoused



83% of rehousing participants have avoided repeat homelessness

Community Changes Things

Looking for an opportunity to create a wave of change? Invite others to help you in your efforts to collect supplies. This idea can be easily shaped to become a large workplace initiative, church outreach effort or neighborhood challenge. If you have been looking for a way to mobilize a large group of people to make a lasting impact, engage your community, spread the word and watch the change happen!

Kids Create Kindness

Have you been looking for a way to teach your kids about the reality of hunger and homelessness here in our community?

Pack The Pantry is the perfect opportunity to do just that.

Use the information from Point #1 above to share about the need in our community and then walk through the family friendly to-do list, letting your kids lead the way.



Our minimum age for volunteering inside the shelter is 10 years old, but supporting our mission can happen WAY before kids reach that milestone. Encourage your kids to invite friends and family to participate, help them create a brief video to recruit other helpers and as a result, you will get a front row seat to see your kids create change.

How To Make This Happen

Tip #1 Chose Family Or Community

As you jump in to help us Pack The Pantry, you will notice we have this opportunity broken up into two "to-do" list categories. Phase one is a simple serve idea that requires a small amount of time and can be done among one household. Phase two was made to equip you to invite others in and serve as a community. Knowing your intention before you move forward will help frame the rest of the resources below.

Tip #2 Selecting Shelf Stable Staples

Your willingness to help us Pack The Pantry will ensure that our ever-changing top needed items are continually stocked and ready to feed our community. Wondering what items to purchase? Check our TOP NEEDED ITEMS LIST to ensure that you are shopping the most urgently needed items first. That list is continually updated to ensure you can help us respond to the needs of our community in real time.

Tip #3 How Does Drop Off Work?

Dropping off your donation is a quick and easy process! Simply choose a time that works best for you and put in our shelter address @ 160 Meadow St, Monroe, NC 28110. We encourage you to try to avoid mealtimes of 8a, noon & 7pm, simply because our staff might be tied up serving a meal during those times.

When you arrive to shelter, pull around to the back packing lot and you will notice a gray door clearly labeled "DONATION DROP OFF." Feel free to park your car in one of the spots closest to the donation door. There is a simple doorbell to ring and as you do, one of our staff or volunteers will be there to help you unload and weigh your donations. Need a tax deduction receipt? We have those there too!

Tip #4 Follow The Leader

We talk a lot around here about kindness being contagious. As you read through this opportunity to help us stock up, we hope you feel empowered to use your influence and willingness to create change. You are leading the way as you learn how to help, but others in your circle of influence are willing, yet still unaware of an action plan.

People want to help; they just don't know how. You are leading our community towards change, spread the word so that others can do the same.

To Do List



Set a household budget



Fill in the shopping list with top needed items & quantities



Choose a date & time to shop



Assign in-store tasks & hit the store



Drop off donations & celebrate change

Optional Phase 2 - Invite Others In



Make a list of friends, family & neighbors that could help donate



Edit text & social media posts below with current top needed items (see example script)



Text friends & family list and/or share the list on social media (see example script)



Put a donation drop off sign & box by your front door



Delivery day - way to go, team!

Social Media & Texting Game Plan

(Option 1)

COPY & PASTE 

Hey Friends 

Our family is doing a shelf stable food drive to support The Community Shelter of Union County and we need your help! The shelter provides a monthly drive-thru pantry for those in our community experiencing hunger, but they rely on donation from our community each and every month.

We put together a simple shopping list to make it effortless to grab some supplies next time you are at the store! We are hoping to collect:

- Canned Tuna & Chicken
- Canned Vegetables & Fruit
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Oatmeal Packets & Cereal Boxes
- PB & Jelly

We need all donations dropped off at our place by _(date)_ so we can make the final delivery. If you are able to shop, shoot me a message so we can send you our address and plan on your help! P.S - Not able to shop? Feel free to Venmo me your contribution to _(@)_ and our family will do the shopping for you! Thank you all!

(Option 2)

COPY & PASTE 

Hey _(name)_,

Our family is doing a food drive to support The Community Shelter of Union County and we need all hands on deck. The kids are leading the change and when they brainstormed who might be willing to help, your name came to their mind.

We are hoping to collect:

- Canned Tuna & Chicken
- Canned Vegetables & Fruit
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Oatmeal Packets & Cereal Boxes
- PB & Jelly

We need all donations dropped off at our place by _(date)_ so we can make the final delivery! No pressure, but we wanted to spread the word to help as much as we could. If you have any other ideas on how to spread the word, let us know, we are open to all ideas! Let me know if you have any questions!



**EMERGENCY
SHELTER**



**FOOD
SERVICES**



REHOUSING

704.289.5300

**160 Meadow Street
Monroe, North Carolina
28110**

www.unionshelter.org

