

# STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE

RIVER BEND FOOD BANK



4

SCHEDULE  
OF EVENTS

11

FAQs

12-13

PLANNING TIPS &  
12 FOOD DRIVE IDEAS



RIVER BEND  
FOOD BANK

**Guidebook** 2025

# Welcome!


Since 1986, the Student Hunger Drive has brought together thousands of students throughout the region to spend six weeks working toward the effort to end hunger. Over the past four decades, these students have raised food and funds that have **provided over 19 million meals to the 1 in 8 people who experience hunger** in our local communities.

But that isn't all they have accomplished.

Through this experience, students develop a deep understanding of philanthropy, learn the value of service, and cultivate a lasting commitment to community. They gain skills in leadership, organization, and advocacy – qualities that will stay with them long after the final food item is collected. **The Student Hunger Drive is more than a fundraiser;** it's a movement that empowers youth to become compassionate changemakers. And as River Bend Food Bank's largest fundraiser each year, their impact is not only meaningful – it's essential.

As someone who has had the privilege of witnessing their passion and dedication firsthand, I am continually inspired by the drive, creativity, and heart these students bring to this mission. Their efforts give me incredible hope for the future – and make me deeply optimistic about the kind of world my own children will grow up in, especially if they follow in the footsteps of these remarkable young leaders.

**Thank you for stepping up for our community. Thank you for advocating. And thank you for striving to end hunger.**



Sincerely,  
Jayna Gallagher  
Community Engagement Manager



## PLAN

Determine your goal, plan activities and events you will host, and who will coordinate each.

## KICKOFF

Student Hunger Drive kicks off with a Skit Competition on Monday, September 29th.

## GET TO WORK

Make your food & funds drive successful and fun for everyone.

## THE COLLECTION

Use boxes and pallets provided to help keep food safe.

## THE END

The Student Hunger Drive Loading Day is Wednesday, November 5th. The Finale Rally is held on the evening of November 6th to celebrate each school's achievements.

## THE IMPACT

The Student Hunger Drive helps over 125,000 children and adults facing hunger in River Bend Food Bank's service area. Ensuring they have the food support needed to face life's challenges.



## MISSION

River Bend Food Bank **LEADS** the community-wide effort to end hunger in eastern Iowa and western Illinois.

Leveraging partnerships to help people in need stabilize their lives;

Engaging the public in hunger issues;

Advocating on behalf of hungry people;

Distributing surplus food through a network of hunger-relief agency partners and programs;

Striving to end hunger.

## VISION

A hunger-free Iowa and Illinois.

**SHD  
2025  
GOAL**

**1 MILLION**  
Meals

If you have questions or need anything Jayna Gallagher is your River Bend Food Bank contact for all things revolving around Student Hunger Drive.

Email – [jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org](mailto:jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org)

Office – 563-345-6490 Ext. 2090

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## AUGUST

AUG  
18-29

- Lead to Feed Sessions

AUG  
29

- Last Day to Register Your School

## SEPTEMBER

SEP  
2-26

- Lead to Feed Sessions

SEP  
22

- Week Boxes Delivered to Schools

SEP  
25

- RSVP for Kick-Off Party & Skit Competition

SEP  
29

- School Enrollment Numbers Due, Register Online

- Kick-Off Party & Skit Competition  
6:00 pm

River Bend Food Bank  
4010 Kimmel Drive  
Davenport IA

Join us for a night of fun to kick off the Student Hunger Drive. Every school is encouraged to perform a skit and the winning school will be awarded 2,000 lbs. toward their school's goal - sponsored by Hy-Vee.

## OCTOBER

OCT  
13

- Mid-Point Check-in

Please check in and report your progress. Submit your school's estimated boxes of food and funds. Let us know how it's going and anything we can do to help!

OCT  
30

- Deadline to Schedule Loading Day Delivery Time

All schools are responsible for finding transportation for their food and scheduling a loading time a week prior to Loading Day.

- Finale Rally RSVP Due

## NOVEMBER

NOV  
5

- Loading Day

7:30 am - 3:30 pm  
(Please wear your Student Hunger Drive t-shirts)

River Bend Food Bank, 4010 Kimmel Drive, Davenport, IA

Students will bring their school's collected food and funds to the River Bend Food Bank to be 'loaded in' and weighed.

- Mission Challenge Submissions Due

NOV  
6

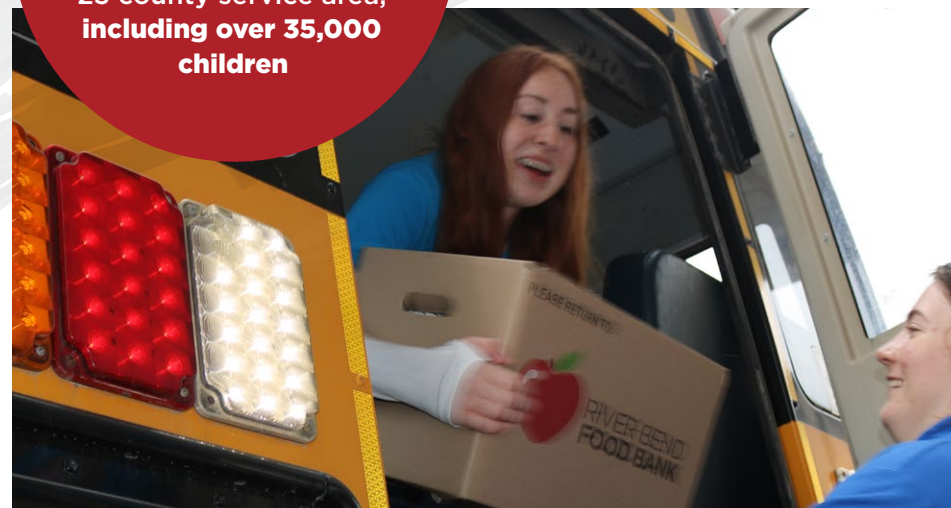
- Finale Rally

6:00 pm

River Bend Food Bank  
4010 Kimmel Drive,  
Davenport IA

Join us as we celebrate your hard work and accomplishments. We will announce the total number of meals and the winners of the Student Hunger Drive in each school division.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
136,480 people experience food insecurity in our 23 county service area, including over 35,000 children



# GENERAL GUIDELINES

River Bend Food Bank has over 400 hunger-relief partners - pantries and meal sites in schools, senior complexes, and community organizations - in 23 counties in eastern Iowa and western Illinois



## FOOD COLLECTIONS & STORING FOOD DONATIONS

**Purchased Food:** If your school purchases pallets of food from grocery stores or wholesalers, have them delivered directly to River Bend Food Bank. Please use the Student Hunger Drive boxes provided for loose food only.

**Monetary Donations:** Schools can accept monetary donations at the school or through our online donation platform - each school will have its own URL. If you receive monetary donations, keep them safe until Loading Day and bring them to River Bend Food Bank.

## COLLECTING FOOD AND MONETARY DONATIONS

**Food Donations:** Schools are asked to collect and donate a variety of non-perishable food products. Most needed food items include; no sugar added canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, canned meat, tuna, soups, chili, and stew.

**Please Consider Quality vs. Quantity:** For the Student Hunger Drive competition, River Bend Food Bank cannot accept perishable items, pet food, soda, or bulk items over 10 pounds.

**Boxes:** River Bend Food Bank will supply boxes for the drive and deliver them to your school the week prior to the kickoff. Please pack all loose items in these boxes, with enough room to close and stack them properly. Should you need more boxes during the drive, please contact Jayna Gallagher at [jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org](mailto:jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org).

**Food Safety:** All Student Hunger Drive food collected must be stored in a secure, sanitary, and temperature-controlled place, at least 4 inches off the floor, away from the wall, and 6 inches below the ceiling to comply with food safety regulations. Please do not store food in a garage, shed, or car.

If you need pallets to store food, please contact Jayna Gallagher at [jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org](mailto:jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org).



# GENERAL GUIDELINES



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Every \$1 donated can provide UP TO FIVE meals

## DELIVERING TO RIVER BEND FOOD BANK

**Delivery:** Food can be delivered to River Bend Food Bank any time during the drive. Please contact Jayna Gallagher at [jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org](mailto:jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org) at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a donation delivery time.

**Trucking:** Each participating high school is responsible for arranging adequate trucking for all food collected. Students are encouraged to start calling immediately to request donated trucking for Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

**Loading Day:** Loading Day is Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Each school is responsible for scheduling a delivery time to unload collected food. Please contact Jayna Gallagher to schedule at [jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org](mailto:jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org), by Thursday, October 30, 2025.

**Schools are required to deliver at least one load of food on Loading Day; please return all unused boxes and pallets at that time. Advisor and student leadership attendance is required.**

## MEDIA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Media:** Press releases must be approved by River Bend Food Bank. Please email Jayna Gallagher at [jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org](mailto:jgallagher@riverbendfoodbank.org). River Bend Food Bank will be promoting the Student Hunger Drive through social media.

All schools are encouraged to submit photos and videos of their activities (with proper photo releases when appropriate) to Jayna Gallagher at any time during the competition to be shared in River Bend Food Bank's marketing efforts.

**Get Free T-Shirts:** Please do not create your own t-shirts for the Student Hunger Drive. Each school will receive Student Hunger Drive t-shirts at the kickoff event on September 29, 2025 for distribution to your student leadership and for any active participants to wear while promoting the Student Hunger Drive.



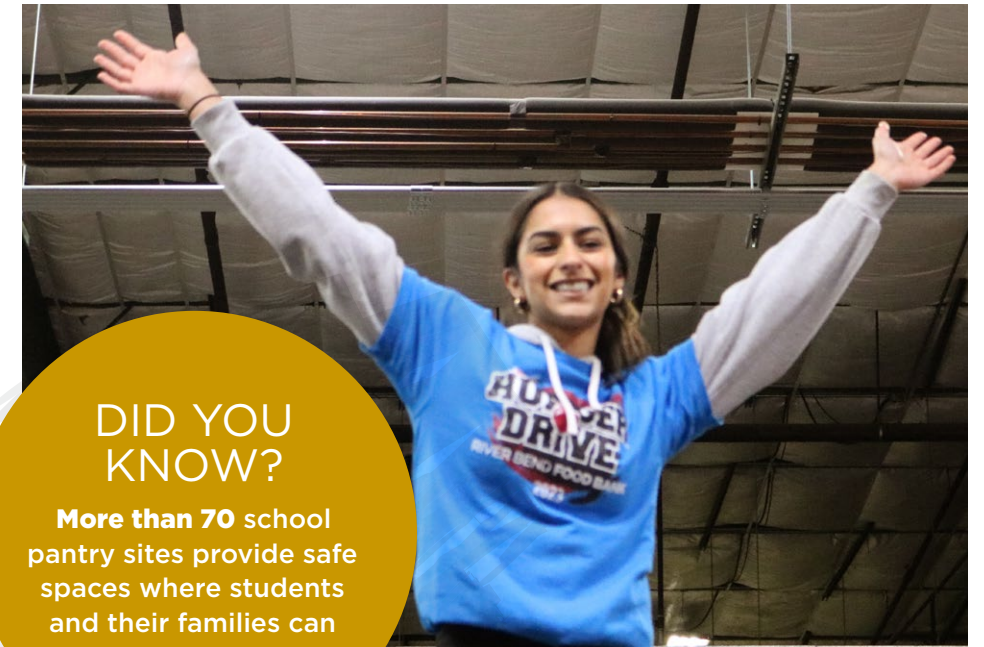
# LEAD TO FEED: HUNGER IMPACT FORUM

We are reimagining how we engage our student leaders and would like to offer a more accessible and intimate experience in which we can educate and inspire our leaders to represent their school at the Student Hunger Drive. Instead of the Extravacanza event at our warehouse in the evening, we would like to bring the "event" to the students where we can provide a roundtable experience with direct access to our River Bend Food Bank team.

This will allow for more students to be involved, if your school chooses, and will also provide an opportunity for Q&A, brainstorming and collaboration. We know we ask a lot of the students, and the fall is a busy time of year, so we want to make it easier while still having the leadership experience that has been a part of Student Hunger Drive for 39 years.

We can come to you during your school hours, or before and after school hours if need be. We will bring a Leadership Kit and treats and ask for an hour of your time, or however much you can provide.

**Visit the website and fill out the form at [riverbendfoodbank.org/shd/lead-to-feed-rsvp/](http://riverbendfoodbank.org/shd/lead-to-feed-rsvp/) and Jayna will contact you to schedule your session!**



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
More than 70 school pantry sites provide safe spaces where students and their families can access food



## NOMINATE A 2025 SHD STUDENT AMBASSADOR!

**Know a passionate leader who wants to make a difference?** The Student Hunger Drive (SHD) Student Ambassador Program is their chance to shine!

As an SHD Ambassador, they will represent their school during our 6-week campaign — helping to lead, educate, and inspire others to fight hunger in our community. Students might also be asked to speak at events, take part in media interviews, and be a key voice for the cause.

Each school can nominate one student to serve as their SHD Ambassador.

# KICK-OFF PARTY & SKIT COMPETITION



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 River Bend Food Bank distributed more than **16,541,191 total meals** in fiscal year 2025

## JOIN US TO KICK OFF THE 39TH ANNUAL STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE!

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

The Student Hunger Drive Kick-off Party is a tradition you won't want to miss. Join us for food, fun, and to meet your "competition". Part of the kick-off event includes the annual skit competition.

Each participating high school is invited to show their school pride and perform a skit at the student kick-off party!

### Skit Competition Guidelines

- 1 entry per school
- Skits can be any kind of creative expression; an acted-out sketch, cheer, chant, rap, song, dance, etc.
- Content should educate and inspire involvement in the Student Hunger Drive.
- Advisors must approve script and language.

### Performing your Skit

- Each school will have 2 minutes to set up, skits should be 1 minute in length.
- Buzzer will sound if time limit is exceeded.
- Skits will be judged based on originality, spirit, content, time, and TV friendliness.
- The winning school will receive 2,000 pounds of food toward their goal\*.

*\*provided by Hy-Vee*



# MISSION CHALLENGE

The River Bend Food Bank Mission Challenge is a 500-word or fewer essay, with a display board that illustrates your experiences and expresses how your school engaged our mission and vision during the Student Hunger Drive.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Every year, the U.S. throws away **119 BILLION pounds** of food

## RIVER BEND FOOD BANK MISSION

River Bend Food Bank leads the community-wide effort to end hunger in eastern Iowa and western Illinois.



### Topics to Include:

1. What did you learn about hunger in your community and how did you make a difference?
2. What was the most meaningful experience you had during the Student Hunger Drive?
3. How did you put the River Bend Food Bank mission into action in your school and community?
4. How did the Student Hunger Drive help you grow as a leader or changemaker?
5. How will your school keep the mission alive beyond Student Hunger Drive?

*A committee will evaluate one entry from each school to determine a winner.*

Submissions for the Mission Challenge are due on Loading Day, November 5, 2025.

## GET INVOLVED

# THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED

YOUR DONATION OF TIME AND TALENT IS VITAL TO RIVER BEND FOOD BANK.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

**Advocate:** Encourage legislators and community leaders to adopt policies that work to help people experiencing hunger.

**Educate:** Learn how hunger is impacting our community; share education and ways to help with your networks.

**Volunteer:** Get involved at River Bend Food Bank or your local pantry.

**Donate:** Make a monetary gift of any size to make sure no one goes hungry in our community.

**Learn more** about River Bend Food Bank programs, sign up to **volunteer**, and **make a gift** online at: [riverbendfoodbank.org](http://riverbendfoodbank.org)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteers donated more than 18,286 hours in FY25 to support River Bend Food Bank; valued at more than \$612,398

## FAQs

### WHAT IS THE STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE?

The Student Hunger Drive is a six-week, friendly competition between area high schools to work together to address a significant community need – hunger. Students collect food items through school events, challenges, and activities to meet their pre-determined goal (pounds of food raised). In addition to collecting food and funds to support people experiencing hunger, the Student Hunger Drive provides students the opportunity to develop organizational and life skills as they work together to accomplish a common goal. The Student Hunger Drive has instilled philanthropy, taught leadership skills, and encouraged volunteerism in high school students for over 35 years.

### WHERE DOES THE FOOD GO?

All food collected from the Student Hunger Drive is distributed through River Bend Food Bank, located in Davenport, Iowa, to over 400 hunger-relief partners across 23 counties in Iowa and Illinois. The food pantries and meal sites provide food to over 100,000 children and adults experiencing hunger.

### HOW CAN PEOPLE DONATE IF THEY ARE NOT STUDENTS?

Community members can drop off food or monetary donations at participating schools, attend community events planned by schools, or donate directly to River Bend Food Bank in support of a participating high school.

### HOW DO WE DETERMINE THE WINNERS?

The schools that bring in the most pounds of food per student in each of three divisions (based on student population size) are the winners. All schools weigh their donated food at River Bend Food Bank on Loading Day – **Wednesday, November 5.**

### EACH SCHOOL HAS ITS OWN DONATION PAGE

Go to [riverbendfoodbank.org/shd](http://riverbendfoodbank.org/shd) and look under participating schools and choose your school.

## DID YOU KNOW?

67% choose between gas for transportation and food; 79% compromise nutrition and long-term health to buy the cheapest food available

### WHAT DO HIGH SCHOOLS WIN?

**High School Division Categories:** Participating schools are divided into three categories for the Student Hunger Drive competition. These categories are determined by each school's enrollment as of October 1, 2025:

**Division A:** 1,250+ enrolled students

**Division B:** 200 - 1,249 enrolled students

**Division C:** 25 - 199 enrolled students

**Division Awards:** First and second place are awarded to schools in each division. The schools donating the highest number of pounds of food per student will be named their division's winner. First place in each division also will also receive a banner to hang at their school.

#### Additional School Awards:

**Most Improved Award** – schools in each division with highest increase over previous year.

**Mission Challenge Award** – school in any division that best showcases River Bend Food Bank's mission through submitting a display board and 500-word essay.

**Skit Competition Traveling Trophy** – new this year! Winning school will get the traveling trophy to display until next year.



Visit our website for more information: [riverbendfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://riverbendfoodbank.org/volunteer)

**Thank you for partnering with us to help end hunger in eastern Iowa and western Illinois!**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	19 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	20 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	21 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	22 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	23
24	25 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	26 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	27 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	28 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	29 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	30
					<b>Last day to Register Your School</b>	
31						

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	3 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	4 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	5 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	6
7	8 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	9 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	10 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	11 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	12 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	13
14	15 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	16 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	17 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	18 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	19 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	20
21	22 <b>Boxes Delivered to Schools this Week</b>	23 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	24 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	25 <b>RSVP Kick-Off Party &amp; Skit Competition Due</b>	26 <b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>	27
	<b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>			<b>Lead to Feed Sessions</b>		
28	29 <b>Enrollment Numbers Due</b>	30				
	<b>Kick-Off Party &amp; Skit Competition 6:00 pm</b>					

## OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	5	6	8	9	10	11
12	13 <b>Mid-Point Check-in</b>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 <b>Deadline to Schedule Loading Day Delivery Time</b>	31	
				<b>Finale Rally RSVP Due</b>		

## NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5 <b>Loading Day! 7:30 am - 3:30 pm</b>	6 <b>Finale Rally 6:00 pm</b>	7	8

