



Daily Giving Countdown

30 Days of Donations and Discussions



Fight poverty a few minutes each day with two unique 30-Day Challenges. At the end of the month, your family will have a box of donations to share with the food pantry, or a basket of supplies to share with folks transitioning out of a shelter. Plus, you'll have had daily opportunities to wonder about and take action to fight hunger, homelessness, food, service, and community. Use this printable as

- a countdown to the New Year,
- a giving twist on an Advent countdown, or
- a tool to add meaning to any month!

This project takes a bit of effort to set up but requires only minutes a day as a family once you get started.



- Reach out to your local food pantry or homeless shelter about current needs (add to blank spaces or swap with less helpful prompts)
- Make a copy of your favorite challenge and recruit friends and neighbors to participate.
- Purchase the items to fill your box or basket ahead of time (so it's all ready to go!)
- Daily, add to your box and wonder together about the key question.
- Drop off your full box or basket together.



Daily Giving Countdown

30 Days of Donations for Your Food Pantry



Day 1: Decorate a box to collect your donations.

- What words and images we can make our donation box look cheerful and encouraging?

Day 2: Canned soup or stew

- Have you ever been hungry and had to wait to get food? How did it feel?

Day 3: Canned meat, like tuna, chicken, or ham

- Name three things are you grateful for? How can you tell if these things are wants or needs?

Day 4: Canned fruit (in juice)

- How you might react if a kid at school brought food for lunch that looked or smelled new to you?

Day 5: Canned beans

- Do you have a favorite meal that is vegetarian? Can you find a new one you'd like to try?

Day 6: Pasta and jar of sauce

- Can we each think of one thing we can do to make someone smile today?

Day 7: Peanut butter or soy butter

- Do you think the food pantry is an important part of our community? In what ways?

Day 8: Ramen

- If you could set your own allowance, what would it be? Why? How would you spend it?

Day 9: Rice

- Did you know cultures all over the world eat rice? Visit FreeRice.com for a game that donates rice!

Day 10: Granola bars

- What is your favorite physical activity or sport? Why?

Day 11: Apple sauce

- Everybody needs help sometimes. How has someone helped you? How did it make you feel?

Day 12: Cooking oil (like canola)

- How does advertising affect the way your family eats, at home or at restaurants?

Day 13: Crackers

- Something I wish I could change at school or work is....

Day 14: Dried herbs/spices

- Who is your biggest hero? Why do you think that person is so terrific?

Day 15: Instant mashed potatoes

- Who is responsible for addressing/solving the problem of hunger in our community?

Day 16: Boxed macaroni and cheese

- What do you think would happen to your body and your feelings if you were hungry often?

Day 17: Meal in a box kit

- What is one meal you'd like to learn to make from scratch?

Day 18: Nuts

- Imagine how being hungry impacts your ability to learn and make friends in school?

Day 19: Shelf-stable milk (dried) or milk substitute

- If you could make one wish for your community, what would it be?

Day 20: Instant oatmeal

- What is the hardest thing about growing up? About being an adult?

Day 21: Baking mix

- If you were in charge of the food pantry, what treat would always be available for kids?

Day 22: Breakfast cereal

- If you knew you'd be stranded on a deserted island for a year, what would you bring?

Day 23: Condiments

- How can we help spread the message about the important work of food pantries?

Day 24: Cake mix

- What are some ways we can help folks in our community who may be experiencing hunger?

Day 25: Frosting

- If you could make one wish for the world, what would it be?

Day 26: (Local need:) _____

- What makes someone a good leader? Describe someone you know who is a good leader.

Day 27: (Local need:) _____

- What is the hardest thing about being a kid or parent in this community? The best thing?

Day 28: (Local need:) _____

- When was the last time you did something for a stranger just to be nice?

Day 29: (Local need:) _____

- When do you think it feels good to stand out and be unique? When can that feel hard?

Day 30: (Local need:) _____

- Would you consider yourself a good citizen? Why or why not?



Daily Giving Countdown

30 Days of Donations for Your Shelter



Day 1: Decorate a basket to collect your donations.

- How can we make our basket look cheerful and encouraging?

Day 2: Laundry soap

- Why do you think some people are homeless or have unstable housing?

Day 3: Shampoo/conditioner

- Name three things you are grateful for? How can you tell if these things are wants or needs?

Day 4: Hand soap

- How you might react if a kid at school wore the same clothes twice in a row?

Day 5: Tooth paste

- How do you feel and how well do you sleep when you are away from home over night?

Day 6: Tooth brushes

- Can we each think of one thing we can do to make someone smile today?

Day 7: Trash bags

- Do you think the shelter is an important part of our community? In what ways?

Day 8: Ziploc bags

- If you could set your own allowance, what would it be? Why? How would you spend it?

Day 9: Bath towel

- Does your family have an emergency plan in case of a house fire? What would you do?

Day 10: Wash cloths

- What is your favorite physical activity or sport? Why?

Day 11: Comb/brush

- Everybody needs help sometimes. How has someone helped you? How did it make you feel?

Day 12: Sponges

- How does advertising affect the way your family eats, at home or at restaurants?

Day 13: Paper towels

- Something I wish I could change at school or work is....

Day 14: Multipurpose cleaner

- Who is your biggest hero? Why do you think that person is so terrific?

Day 15: Dish soap

- Who is responsible for addressing/solving the problem of homelessness in our community?

Day 16: Boxed macaroni and cheese

- What do you think would happen to your body and your feelings if you were hungry often?

Day 17: Soup

- What is one meal you'd like to learn to make from scratch?

Day 18: Breakfast cereal

- Imagine how being hungry impacts your ability to learn and make friends in school?

Day 19: Box of crackers

- If you could make one wish for your community, what would it be? Why?

Day 20: Granola bars

- What is the hardest thing about growing up? About being an adult?

Day 21: Package of oatmeal

- If you were in charge of the shelter, what fun activity would you plan for any kids who came?

Day 22: Paper plates

- If you knew you'd be stranded on a deserted island for a year, what would you bring?

Day 23: Silverware

- How can we help spread the message about the important work the shelter does?

Day 24: Small throw blanket

- What are some other ways we can help folks in our community who may be struggling?

Day 25: Gift card

- What activity makes you feel hopeful? Brave? Confident? Cared for?

Day 26: (Local need:) _____

- What makes someone a good leader? Describe someone you know who is a good leader.

Day 27: (Local need:) _____

- What is the hardest thing about being a kid or parent in this community? The best thing?

Day 28: (Local need:) _____

- When was the last time you did something for a stranger just to be nice?

Day 29: (Local need:) _____

- When do you think it feels good to stand out and be unique? When can that feel hard?

Day 30: (Local need:) _____

- Would you consider yourself a good citizen? Why or why not?