



Northeast Iowa Food Bank's Annual Student Food Drive Begins October 5

10 area high schools will host events, volunteer, fundraise, and collect food to support NEIFB and the people it serves.

Waterloo, IA (October 1, 2026) - The Northeast Iowa Food Bank's annual Student Food Drive will begin Monday, October 5, bringing together area high school students in a month-long effort to help provide food for families and individuals experiencing hunger throughout northeast Iowa.

The Student Food Drive will run from October 5 through November 5. During the drive, students from 10 area high schools will host events, volunteer, fundraise, and collect food to support the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and the people it serves.

The Student Food Drive gives area high school students an opportunity to take action against food insecurity while building a spirit of volunteerism and community involvement. The drive also serves as a friendly competition among participating schools, with students working together to support people facing hunger throughout northeast Iowa.

Students will compete in five categories:

- Most food donated
- Most funds raised
- Most volunteer hours
- Most social media posts
- Most events held

Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each category, and one school will be named the overall Grand Winner. The Grand Winner will receive a cash prize, traveling banner, and invitations to NEIFB's Pack the Dome and Empty Bowls events.

More than 45,000 people in northeast Iowa face hunger, including approximately one in six children. Through the Student Food Drive, students have an opportunity to make a difference in their own communities while working together toward a common goal.

“Every year, I’m impressed by the creativity and commitment these students bring to the Student Food Drive,” said Barbara Prather, Executive Director of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. “They’re raising food and funds, but they’re also learning what it means to step up and serve their communities. With more than 45,000 people in northeast Iowa facing hunger, their work matters, and we’re grateful to every student, school and supporter who takes part.”

The 2026 Student Food Drive participating schools include:

- Hudson High School
- Janesville High School
- Turkey Valley High School
- Union High School
- Charles City High School
- Waterloo East High School
- Nashua-Plainfield High School
- Cedar Falls High School
- Waterloo West High School
- Valley Lutheran High School

Community members can support the Student Food Drive by donating food directly to participating schools or at student-led events. Each school will also have its own online donation page, allowing supporters to make a monetary donation directly to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank while giving credit to the school of their choice.

The Student Food Drive will conclude with a wrap-up celebration on Friday, November 6, at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Winners in all five competition categories, along with the overall Grand Winner, will be announced during the event.

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank thanks the 2026 Student Food Drive sponsors: Gold Sponsor Aspro and Silver Sponsors GreenState Credit Union and Waterloo Exchange Club.

To support the Student Food Drive, donate to a participating school or learn more, please contact Felicia Arias at 319-304-9085 or visit neifb.org.

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Contact: Abby Turpin, Director of Development, Marketing, and Communications,
aturpin@neifb.org

About NEIFB: The Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB) is a proud member of Feeding America® and the Iowa Food Bank Association. We believe food is a basic human right and work every day to help ensure people have access to the nourishment they need. NEIFB distributes nutritious food and grocery products to more than 125 nonprofit organizations and programs serving individuals and families across northeast Iowa. Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 8.5 million meals across its 16-county service area: Allamakee, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Fayette, Floyd, Grundy, Howard, Mitchell, Poweshiek, Tama, and Winneshiek counties. For 45 years, the Food Bank has helped alleviate hunger and provide nutrition education through its eight programs: Agency Distribution, Backpack, Cedar Valley Food Pantry, Kids Café, Mobile Food Pantry, School Market, Senior Nutrition, and Summer Feeding. NEIFB is working toward its bold aspiration: **Every Meal. Every Day. Everyone.** Please visit neifb.org and follow us on social media. Please visit neifb.org and follow us on social media.