



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
COMMUNITY CENTER

# Steps to a successful Host-a-Bin





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# Welcome

## WHAT IS THE MLK COMMUNITY CENTER?

### OUR MISSION

Founded in 1922 and renamed after Dr. King in 1968, the MLK Community Center nourishes, educates, and supports Newport County, Rhode Island residents to improve their economic, social, and physical well-being.

### OUR VALUES

We build a strong and inclusive community where all people are empowered to be self-reliant and to live their best quality of life.

### OUR PROGRAMS

We provide over 25 programs that encompass three areas:

#### Hunger Prevention and Nutrition



#### Early Childhood and Out of School Time Education



#### Community Support Programs



20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.  
Newport, RI 02840



401-846-4828



[mlkcenter.org](http://mlkcenter.org)



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# Welcome

HOW YOUR DRIVE HELPS NEWPORT COUNTY

[CLICK HERE TO PRINT](#)

**1,392,332**

TOTAL MEALS PROVIDED,  
ALL HUNGER PROGRAMS



**20%**

MORE  
THAN  
2024



**180**

VISITS TO

**17**

NEIGHBORHOODS

**1,396**

GROCERY DELIVERIES TO HOMEBOUND  
SENIORS AND DISABLED



**7%**

MORE  
THAN  
2024

**38,056**

HOT BREAKFASTS SERVED



**85,570**

MEALS DISTRIBUTED  
FROM TWO SCHOOL  
FOOD PANTRIES



**282,657**

POUNDS OF FRESH  
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED



**15%**

MORE  
THAN  
2024

**2,320**

PEOPLE FROM

**901**

FAMILIES RECEIVED  
HELP AT THANKSGIVING

## OUR HUNGER PROGRAMS

FOOD PANTRY  
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY  
PRODUCE TO THE PEOPLE  
FOOD DELIVERY TO HOMEBOUND  
DAILY HOT BREAKFAST  
DAILY BREAD

MIDDAY MEALS  
THANKSGIVING FOOD  
HOLIDAY MEAL ASSISTANCE  
MHS FOOD PANTRY  
THS FOOD PANTRY



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# Step 1:

## PLAN YOUR DRIVE

### **DECIDE ON YOUR DRIVE'S FOCUS:**

We are in constant need of a wide variety of items for the pantry but sometimes, narrowing a drive down helps donors participate. Toiletry drives, canned good drives, hearty soup drives, cereal drives, canned protein drives, gluten-free or vegetarian drives are all welcomed. But holding a general drive is great too!

### **GET A TEAM OF FRIENDS, FAMILY OR COWORKERS TO HELP ORGANIZE THE DRIVE.**

A drive is hard to organize alone! Gather friends, family or coworkers to help coordinate your drive. (Food drives are great ways to fulfill a community service project requirement.)

### **DECIDE ON A THEME OR SLOGAN.**

Drives are often more successful when they're organized around a theme or competition. Be creative! Create a slogan that best fits your focus and drive expectations.





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# Step 2:

## SCHEDULE YOUR DRIVE

### CHOOSE THE DATES FOR YOUR DRIVE.

2-4 weeks is recommended but your drive can always be shorter or longer. Often, most think of drives during the holidays but we need food all year round. Our pantry is most in need when the holidays are over, during school breaks and during summer vacation.



### CHOOSE A LOCATION FOR YOUR DONATION BIN.

Where will donors place their donations? There are many options: your home, your church, your workplace, your school.



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# Step 3:

## REGISTERING YOUR DRIVE

Registering your drive with helps us coordinate how to best use your how your donations are received and helps in order to give to those in need as quickly as possible.

### HOW TO REGISTER

You can register your drive at anytime. Our Hunger Services Program Manager, Mia Ceglie is here to help every step of the way. There are multiple ways to contact us if you want to register:



**EMAIL**

[mceglie@mlkcenter.org](mailto:mceglie@mlkcenter.org)



**PHONE**

(401) 846-4828  
ext. 201



**ADDRESS**

20 Dr Marcus  
Wheatland Blvd.  
Newport RI, 02840



**WEBSITE**

[www.mlkcenter.org](http://www.mlkcenter.org)



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# Step 4:

## PROMOTE YOUR DRIVE

### **GIVE YOURSELF ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE AND PROMOTE THE DRIVE.**

Put flyers in entry ways and common locations. Send out emails and newsletters. Social media is a great way for donors to know you're hosting a food drive. Download our poster for your social media.

### **LET US KNOW HOW YOUR FOOD DRIVE GOES!**

We love to share photos of drives on our email newsletter and social media. Please email Mia Ceglie, [mceglie@mlkccenter.org](mailto:mceglie@mlkccenter.org) with any photos or stories you may have as well as your social media handles so we can celebrate your success! Be sure to tag us so we can amplify your drive.



### **WORD OF MOUTH IS IMPORTANT**

Express how much this food drive means to you and why you are holding it. Whether you are hosting this because you support community programming, want to meet others in the community or want to help feed food insecure people year-round, your "why" matters. It is important to pass your message along.

### **GIVE DONORS ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE BEFORE THE DRIVE STARTS.**



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# Step 5:

## COLLECT YOUR DONATIONS



### HAVING A GOAL IS A GREAT START

Incentives work to get donors involved! For example, if you reach a goal of 500 cans your organization might host a pizza party. Other incentives could include discounts, casual day or small prizes. Use teams to make the food drive competitive.

### WE WILL PROVIDE YOUR ORGANIZATION WITH A DONATION BIN

We may be available to pick up your donation. If you would like to deliver your drive, we receive donations at our loading dock Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

**It is really helpful if you can schedule a specific day and time to deliver so we can be available to help you.**



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# Step 6:

## SHARE YOUR RESULTS

### HOW MUCH DID YOUR DRIVE RAISE?

Donors will be excited to see the results. The MLK will provide each organization with a thank you letter and the weight of your drive in pounds.

### SPREAD THE WORD

Encourage other organizations to Host-A-Bin in support of The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

### THANK YOUR TEAM FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART

Congratulate yourselves on a job well done! Your donations help thousands of people in Newport County. We are so grateful for every soup can and cereal box that enters our building. Thank you!

# Step 7:

## QUESTIONS?

### HOW CAN WE HELP?

Please call 401-846-4828 x201 or email Mia Ceglie at [mceglie@mlkccenter.org](mailto:mceglie@mlkccenter.org)



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# You Did It!

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your interest in hosting a drive to benefit the MLK Food Pantry. Drives like yours help us provide fresh produce, healthy food, as well as personal hygiene and household cleaning products to our community.

Having a healthy and clean body and home is not a privilege, it is a basic human right. By hosting a drive, you are aiding in a better life for thousands of people.

*Heather Hole Strout*

Heather Hole Strout  
Executive Director

## Other Ways to Get Involved

### VOLUNTEER

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center offers an array of opportunities to volunteer in and outside the center. If you are interested in volunteering, please register on our website.

<https://mlkcccenter.org/volunteer/>

### NO TIME TO HOST A DRIVE?

Sometimes donors want to help but don't have time to donate food. Cash donations and donations of supermarket gift cards (Shaw's or Stop & Shop) are welcome.

**DONATE  
ONLINE  
HERE!**

