

**BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION**

SIX-DAY TO FIVE-DAY STREET DELIVERY
AND RELATED SERVICE CHANGES, 2010

Docket No. N2010-1

NALC-LR-N2010-1/16:

National Association of Letter Carriers National Food Drive -- May 18, 2010 Fact Sheet

National Association of Letter Carriers National Food Drive – May 8, 2010

Fact Sheet

On the second Saturday in May -- May 8, 2010 -- letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America will deliver much more than mail when they walk and drive along their postal routes. They also will collect the goodness and compassion of their postal customers participating in the 18th annual NALC National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger" – the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

The effort by letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), with the help of rural letter carriers, other postal employees and numerous other volunteers has resulted in delivery of nearly one billion pounds of donations to community food banks and pantries over the past 17 years.

In 2009, the drive collected a record 73.4 million pounds of food for the needy from postal customers. That brought the total for the first 17 years to 982.7 million pounds.

Letter carriers will collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices and deliver them to local community food banks, pantries and shelters. Over 1,400 local NALC branches in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam are involved in the drive.

Campbell Soup Company and the U. S. Postal Service are major partners again in 2010, cosponsoring the printing of 126 million postcards to encourage the general public to participate in the drive. Campbell Soup also earmarked an additional 1 million pound canned food donation to the drive. Also returning as a major supporter is Valpak Direct Marketing Systems, the nationwide direct mail marketing firm, which promotes the drive on more than 44 million packets delivered to postal customers.

The drive also relies on the support of United Way Worldwide and its local United Ways; the AFL-CIO Community Services network; rural carriers represented by the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association; Feeding America (formerly named America's Second Harvest), the nation's food bank network; and countless local sponsors. The drive also receives generous support yearly from "Family Circus" cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane, who provide a special cartoon to promote the drive.

The success is in its simplicity.

All citizens need do is to place a box or can of non-perishable food next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers mail on Saturday, May 8. The carrier will do all the rest. The food is taken back to a postal station, sorted, and then delivered to an area food bank, pantry or shelter. There it is available for needy families.

Over 49 million people face hunger every day in America, including more than 16.7

million children. This drive is one way people can help those in their own city or town who need help.

The NALC National Food Drive is the outgrowth of a tradition of community service exhibited by members of the letter carriers union over the years. These carriers, who go into neighborhoods in every town six days a week, have always been involved when something needed to be done, whether it be collecting funds for a charity like the Muscular Dystrophy Association, watching over the elderly through the Carrier Alert program, assisting victims of natural disasters, or rescuing victims of fires, crime, and other mishaps.

Over history, a number of branches collected food for the needy as part of their community service effort. Nearly two decades ago, discussions were held by the NALC, U.S. Postal Service and AFL-CIO Community Services Department to explore a more coordinated effort. A pilot drive was held in 10 cities in October, 1991, modeled on a drive by Phoenix, Arizona Branch 576. It proved so successful that work began immediately on making it a nationwide effort.

Input from food banks and pantries suggested that late spring would be the best time since by then most food banks in the country start running out of donations received during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday periods.

A revamped drive was organized for May of 1993 with a goal of having at least one NALC branch participating in each of the 50 states. The result was astounding. Over 11 million pounds of food was collected – a one-day record in the United States – involving over 220 union branches. From Alaska to Florida and Maine to Hawaii, letter carriers did double duty – delivering mail and picking up donations. It then just grew and grew.

Amounts collected along postal routes throughout the years:

1993	11.0 million pounds	2001	69.1 million pounds
1994	32.0 million pounds	2002	61.7 million pounds
1995	45.0 million pounds	2003	60.7 million pounds
1996	45.0 million pounds	2004	70.9 million pounds
1997	53.2 million pounds	2005	71.3 million pounds
1998	53.5 million pounds	2006	70.5 million pounds
1999	58.4 million pounds	2007	70.7 million pounds
2000	63.2 million pounds	2008	73.1 million pounds
		2009	73.4 million pounds

TOTAL 982.7 million pounds

The NALC food drive has received a number of accolades over the years, including two Presidential Certificates of Achievement, a special appreciation award in 2003 from America's Second Harvest food bank network, the annual Humanitarian of the Year award in 2003 from Bon Appétit/Food Network, and the annual World Hunger Year/Chapin Award in 2004.