**10 Alternatives to the Traditional Canned Food Drive:**

**(and mix and match for more ideas!)**

Want to help people who are hungry? Here are ten new ways to promote food justice, raise awareness and feed people who are hungry.

**1. Connect local gardeners with soup kitchen in your area.** Start a collection of local produce in your community, and plan a day to transport fresh items to a local Emergency Food Provider (EFP) such as a soup kitchen or food pantry (find one near you at AmpleHarvest.org).

**2. Volunteer at your local EFP.** If you’re part of a CSA, see if you can use your membership volunteer requirements to help out at your EFP. Or, make arrangements for community members to volunteer one shift at an EFP.

**3. Run a “Virtual Canned Food Drive.”** Collect money instead of food. Often, EFPs buy their food wholesale at a lower cost than supermarket value. Have attendees at an event purchase “food”, and collect the value of the “food” they purchase towards a donation to an EFP or hunger relief organization. Allow guests to choose the amount they wish to purchase, and keep a tally of how many “cans” are purchased so guests can see how much food will be donated to the EFP.

**4. Run a Fresh Food Drive.** Encourage attendees to donate fresh produce instead (from their garden, local farmers market, etc.). The next day, bring fresh produce to your local EFP.

**5. Plan a movie night surrounding the issues of hunger.** Ask for a suggested donation at the door. Donate collected money to your local EFP or a national or international hunger relief organization. For suggestions on films, visit [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com).

**6. Plan programs around Jewish Holidays.** Use the Jewish holidays for inspiration! For example:

* For Tu B’shvat, plan an organic produce Seder. Use this event to teach about sustainability and hunger.
* Around Shavuot or Sukkot, visit a farm and see if you can do some gleaning (harvesting of discarded produce) that you can donate
* On Passover, host a community seder open to less fortunate members of the community. Use fresh food donations to run the seder.

**7. Bake challah!** Challah for Hunger is an organization that raises awareness for hunger and disaster relief through the baking and sale of challah. Partner with Challah for Hunger to host a challah baking event. Or, host your own challah baking event and donate the profits of all challah sold to a local EFP or hunger relief organization.

**8. Provide meals for those in your community.** Arrange a group in your community that cooks and delivers meals to families that experience the birth of a new child, death of a relative, or are recovering from illness or surgery. Hold on a monthly basis, and food can be frozen and delivered when needed.

**9. Bring a dynamic speaker to your community!** Arrange for a speaker to discuss issues surrounding hunger and hunger advocacy. Suggest attendees contribute a donation of $5-18 that will be donated to your local EFP or hunger relief organization following the event.

**10. Host a cooking demonstration!** Donate leftovers from the meal to community members in need or to a local EFP. Use the time that the food is in the oven to discuss hunger awareness in the community.