Food Donation Guidelines for Licensed Food Facilities

Save food and help people in need

For more food safety information, please visit:
Metro Public Health Department
www.nashville.gov/Health-Department.aspx
Help your community and the environment

In the United States, as much as 40% of food goes uneaten. Grocery stores, restaurants and institutions combined are responsible for about 40% of this waste. Meanwhile, 16% percent of Davidson County residents don’t have a steady supply of food to their tables. Donating surplus prepared food helps local hunger relief agencies serve those in need, including many children and seniors.

How to get started

1. Identify foods you can donate

Licensed food establishments can donate food that has not been served (e.g., leftover food from a buffet may not be donated). Hunger relief organizations are most in need of entrees, soups, sandwiches and other healthy, prepared food.

2. Find a charitable organization to take your food

Call a hunger relief organization and let them know what food you have and in what quantity. The recipient organization must have a food license. In addition, there are nonprofits that can pick up food from your business and deliver it to a hunger relief organization.

The Mayor’s Food Saver Challenge website has links to some of these organizations (http://www.nashville.gov/Mayors-Office/Transportation-and-Sustainability/Food-Saver-Challenge/Restaurant-Participation.aspx).

3. Engage your staff

Talk to your staff about donating food and let them know that you support donation of appropriate foods. Some of the food establishments that donate have found it helpful to choose an employee to champion their food donation effort.

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