



**Contact:**

Amanda Allen  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator  
Feeding America Southwest Virginia  
540.537.8984  
aallen@faswva.org

## Letter carriers' 25th annual food drive set for Sat., May 13

ROANOKE, Va. – The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will conduct its 25th annual national food drive on Saturday, May 13. The Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, the country's largest single-day food drive, provides residents with an easy way to donate food to those in need in the community.

Customers simply leave their donation of non-perishable goods next to their mailbox before the delivery of the mail on Saturday, May 13. Letter carriers will collect these food donations on that day as they deliver mail along their postal routes and distribute them to local food agencies, including Feeding America Southwest Virginia (FASWVA).

With the economic struggles many Southwest Virginians face, the Letter Carriers' Food Drive is as critical as ever. More than 150,000 people face hunger – including nearly 44,000 children – face hunger in the region.

"This food drive comes at a critical time for those we serve," said Pamela Irvine, president and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia. "With recent research telling us that the cost of a meal is rising and those already struggling are struggling even more, Food Lion and our letter carriers' are indispensable in helping us provide food for the hungry."

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is the nation's largest single-day food drive and is held annually on the second Saturday in May in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam.

Hunger affects about 50 million people around the country, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans. Pantry shelves filled up through winter-holiday generosity often are bare by late spring. And, with most school meal programs suspended during summer months, millions of children must find alternate sources of nutrition.



Letter carriers see these struggles in the communities they serve, and they believe it's important to do what they can to help.

On Saturday, May 13, as they deliver mail, the nation's 175,000 letter carriers will collect donations left by residents near their mailboxes. People are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag—paper or plastic—containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meats and fish, pasta, peanut butter, rice or cereal, next to their mailbox before the regular mail delivery on that Saturday.

Letter carriers will take that food to local food banks, pantries or shelters, including Feeding America Southwest Virginia and its partner programs.

Several national partners are assisting the NALC in the food drive: the U.S. Postal Service, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA), the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), Valpak, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, the AARP Foundation and Valassis.

Locally, Food Lion Feeds has stepped up to provide donation bags as well as a "kickoff" donation of 7,800 meals to Feeding America Southwest Virginia.

This year's effort includes a public service announcement with award-winning actor and director Edward James Olmos. Television networks and stations [can use this link](#) to find and download high-quality versions of the PSA, in English and Spanish.

Since the first national Food Drive in 1993, the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has collected more than 1.5 billion pounds of food; last year's drive brought in a record 80 million pounds of food.

People who have questions about the drive in their area should ask their letter carrier, contact their local post office, or go to [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food), [facebook.com/StampOutHunger](https://facebook.com/StampOutHunger) or [twitter.com/StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger).

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*The 280,000-member National Association of Letter Carriers represents letter carriers across the country employed by the U.S. Postal Service, along with retired letter carriers. Founded by Civil War veterans in 1889, the NALC is among the country's oldest labor unions.*

### **About Feeding America Southwest Virginia**

Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded in 1981 and proudly commemorates 36 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships. The Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America. For the last three and a half decades, the Food Bank's ultimate mission has remained the same: eliminate hunger in the region. The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure and distribute large quantities of food for the hungry. Approximately \$34 million worth of food and grocery related products are channeled annually through a network of more than 330 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9-city region that provide food or meals to those in need. Visit [www.faswva.org](http://www.faswva.org) for more information or like us on Facebook.