



2024 SCHOOL COMPETITION INFORMATION



CAN DO Community Challenge - At A Glance

Who: You!

What: Beyond Hunger's annual spring food drive. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 this year and thanks to a match from our Challenge Corp, every donation will be matched up to \$100,000!

When: April 1st to April 30th

Why: Donations to Beyond Hunger are typically at their lowest during the spring. We continue to see a huge surge in need for our services, and we encourage the community to spread the word, promote the food drive, sign up to volunteer, and/or make a donation.

For more information, contact:

Lauren Brightmore, Lauren@GoBeyondHunger.org (708) 386-1324 ext. 1102

Corina Robinson, Corina@GoBeyondHunger.org (708) 386-1324 ext. 1108

About Beyond Hunger

For 45 years, Beyond Hunger has helped fight hunger in our community. Last year we provided nutritious groceries to over 50,000 people across 13 zip codes. Our marquee program, the food pantry, operates twice per week. Program participants can utilize our walk-in Community Market or come to our drive-thru to receive pre-packaged boxes with dietary restrictions and cultural preference in mind. We also supply meals to kids when school is not in session and deliver groceries to homebound older adults and those with disabilities. We offer nutrition education and cooking classes and connect clients to income support benefits.

Beyond Hunger

848 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301

(708) 386-1324
www.GoBeyondHunger.org





HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

DONATE
food or funds



VOLUNTEER
your time



ADVOCATE
to raise
awareness



For more information, go to GoBeyondHunger.org/CanDoSchool

CAN DO SCHOOL COMPETITION

Will your school be next to take home the CAN DO Challenge Trophy?

Starting April 1st, the competition will begin! There will be several ways for you to participate in this challenge: raising funds, volunteering, increasing public advocacy, and donating food. More information is below:

Fundraising Pages:

Like in past years, we will create your school team's fundraising page on our CAN Do Challenge donation site (**10 points per \$1**). You will be able to see your progress in real time for all online donations. For every \$1 donated, we can provide 3 meals!

The online fundraising page is an easy way for donors to give securely and provide points to your team. You can even recruit people to fundraise for your team to further your impact!

In 2023, participating schools raised enough to provide over 60,000 meals!

Advocacy:

A critical component to ending hunger in our communities is raising awareness. Your school or group can gain more points by helping educate others about good nutrition and using their combined voices to become anti-hunger advocates. Teachers or team captains can share videos and examples of group activities in the following ways:

1. Classroom Visit

Start the Challenge off with points by scheduling a visit with a staff member of Beyond Hunger. We'll come to your school and speak to your class or group about the Challenge and what we do at Beyond Hunger.

1,000 Points

2. Get Creative

Help spread some cheer and have students make birthday and other holiday cards (New Years, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving) for our home delivery clients. Design the card and write messages from the provided [template](#). You can drop off the cards with your food donations at the end of the month or we'll schedule a pickup.

1,000 Points (10 cards per class)

3. Create your own Cooking Video

Star in your own cooking show! Students can choose one of the Healthy Recipes from our [website](#) and create their own cooking video for us to share on our social media and YouTube channel. Try to keep the video approximately 2 minutes or less. Once we post your video, be sure to share it with your friends and school community. Send video submissions to: corina@gobeyondhunger.org.

500 Points

4. Create a Promotional Video

Work together to create a 1-minute shareable video about how your school is raising awareness, food, and funds for Beyond Hunger. Make it fun and send that video or public link to corina@GoBeyondHunger.org so that we can brag about your efforts through our social media channels.

300 Points

5. Share a Classroom Activity

We have a variety of activities that students can do in the classroom or on their own to learn more about hunger and how they can make an impact. Activities include coloring pages, crafts, family activities, word finds and MORE. Each activity is worth 100 points. We just need a picture or scan of the completed project sent to corina@GoBeyondHunger.org. Classroom activities can be found on our google drive: <https://bit.ly/CanDoActivities>.

100 Points

Volunteer Hours:

Registered Beyond Hunger volunteers (self, parent, or guardian) can designate their volunteer hours to an affiliated school during the month of April (**5 points per hour**). If interested in becoming a registered volunteer ahead of the CAN DO Community Challenge please [sign up](#) in time to attend the orientation on March 20th (6-7 PM). Volunteers should email Sofie@GoBeyondHunger.org to ensure hours are assigned to the appropriate school or group.

Food Donations:

Help stock our shelves and donate non-perishable food items. Below is a list of our most needed items for our Food Pantry, Despensa, and Home Delivery programs. You'll notice a few items are worth more points as these are more difficult for us to procure.

All food donations will be weighed for a total number of pounds, but only the items below will be awarded points and count towards the competition.

1. Food Donation List - Most Needed Items:

High Need Items – 8 points

- Dry black-eyed peas (1-2lb bags)
- Canned salmon
- Brown Rice

Essential Items – 5 points

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken Soup
- Cheerios' Cereal
- Canned Mixed Vegetables (low sodium)
- Tomato Paste
- Bagged Rice (White)
- Refried and Dry Beans (Pinto and Black)
- Canned Pineapples
- Canned peaches (in natural juice)
- Canned chicken (in water)

2. Package & Sort Donations:

Help sort your food donations before drop-off. Make it an activity, designate a class to take on the Challenge, or use it as a nutrition lesson. Contact us for ideas on how to organize this activity at your school.

500 Points

Support our partners:

Help local businesses and Beyond Hunger by purchasing items from the Most Needed List from our incredible Rescue Partners. Our rescue partners include local grocery stores and retailers that do their part to help eliminate food waste by donating products that are nearing their expiration date, or those with minor cosmetic blemishes.

Partners include:

- Trader Joe's (483 N. Harlem, OP)
- Sugar Beet Food Co-op (812 Madison, OP)
- Jewel Osco (Any in Oak Park or River Forest)
- Aldi (Any local)
- Costco (Melrose Park)

Donation Drop Offs:

During the last two weeks of April, you can begin to drop off your food donations. Please sign up for a date and time in advance to ensure we have enough staff and space available.

Go to our [sign-up genius](#) to select your date and time and include your school's name.

Spread the Word:

Everything you need from posters, social media resources, images and more is located in our Can Do School Resource folder: <https://bit.ly/CanDoSchoolResources>. Please like and share any posts about Can Do to your networks.

Awards:

Once the competition has ended EOD 4/30, we will tabulate each school's points. **The size of your school is now being factored into the point system.** You can expect to know the results about mid-May. Our staff will coordinate with the winning school on a date to come and present the trophy.

Questions?

Contact Lauren@GoBeyondHunger.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for continuing this community tradition at a time when we are experiencing a huge increase in need.



TEAM CAPTAINS

IMPORTANT CHALLENGE INFORMATION

DONATION PAGE

Your school's page will be created for you and will show all online donations. We can also add any checks or cash that you collect offline and add them to your page totals.

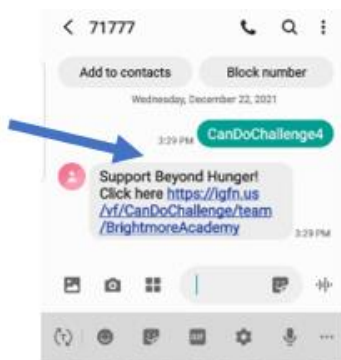
To personalize or edit your team page, goal, or add images, please contact Lauren Brightmore lauren@gobeyondhunger.org 708-386-1324 x 1102

FOOD DONATIONS

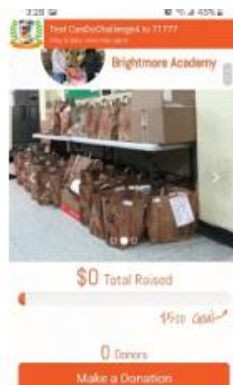
Food donations will be added to team totals at the end of the Challenge. You will need to sign up for a drop off date via the [signup genius](#).

TEXT-TO-GIVE

Your team can leverage your fundraising even further using text messages. Each team will have a specific keyword that supporters can text to 71777 to donate specifically to your school. It's another terrific way to get the word out and simple for people to use.



Text your team's keyword (has # at the end of it) and click on the link.



They will go to your team's page and select [Make a Donation](#)



Then see a form with your team attributed to their donation