

Letter Carriers Food Drive Tops 1 Billion Pounds In 18 Years of Helping to 'Stamp Out Hunger'

WASHINGTON -- The National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO) announced today that partial reports on this year's nationwide "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive have pushed total donations collected along postal routes since the drive began 18 years ago to more than one billion pounds.

I want to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who graciously spent their Saturday volunteering for the National Food Drive on May 8th. It was truly great to see so many volunteers participate when they could have been enjoying River Festival activities or just spending time with family and friends. We had many union volunteers, community groups, JROTC, ROTC, Christian youth groups and many area residents that just wanted to help.

I can attest that you worked hard and stayed longer than planned waiting for either the letter carriers to arrive back to the station or for additional containers for the food collected. Thank you!

Having taken part in this food drive for many years I've never seen this type of response, sure many of our past food drives have been more than successful but the response by the community this year, when many are struggling in our community to put food on their own table is so heart warming!! Thank you!

And a big thanks to all our letter carriers from NALC Branch 201 who worked so hard to bring in all the food and who allow us to participate each year. Thank you!

Larry Gunkel Program Manager from the Kansas Food Banks said, quote:

The 18th Annual Letter Carrier's Food Drive held on Saturday, May 8th was the largest ever one day event, both nationally and in the Wichita area. The Wichita food drive collected over 176,000 pounds of food on this one day event, the largest total in the 18 years of this food drive!

On behalf of the Kansas Food Bank we express our profound appreciation for all who worked so hard and so diligently to make this happen!

We are especially thankful for our Wichita letter carriers who picked up food contributions (donated by their customers) along their mail routes, as well as the many volunteers who assisted in off loading the collected food from the USPS vehicles, who then loaded that food on the semi trucks, whose drivers and local trucking companies had donated their time and vehicles, to bring it to the Kansas Food Bank. Job Well Done!

The NALC Food Drive is the second Saturday in May each year! Please consider helping!

Mario Cervantes
AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison
United Way of the Plains
316-267-1321