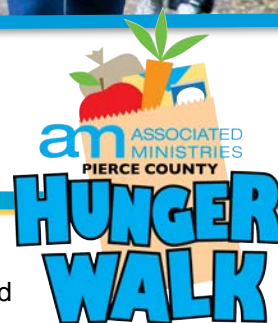




I am fighting hunger.

## Creative Ideas for Food & Cash Drives: Faith Communities



### Sales Ideas

- Run bake sales, donut sales or sell bagels. Sales are often the most brisk right after worship or before classes begin.
- Sell ice cream cones at a congregational dinner to benefit the Hunger Walk.
- Rent a popcorn machine and sell fresh popped popcorn during the afternoon.
- Hold a rummage sale to benefit the Hunger Walk.

### Challenge a Neighbor Congregation

Challenge a neighboring congregation (or another congregation of the same denomination) to compete for the most team members and donations to the Hunger Walk. Weekly updates on progress will keep the competition fueled throughout the month. The “losers” can host a supper or worship service for the “winners,” or the congregational leaders can agree upon a stunt that will be performed by the leader or minister of the “losing” congregation.

### Choose a Worship Day

Choose a worship day to collect pledges, cash, and food. The week before, pass out grocery bags with lists of suggested food donations pasted onto the bag. It is helpful to have the food drive promoted from the pulpit, or from the worship leader. On the day of the food collection, have members bring their bags of food and place them in an area in the

sanctuary or worship hall. The visual effect of many bags of food gathered in the sanctuary is a powerful symbol of the congregation’s commitment.

### Battle of the Ages

Organize a “Battle of the Ages” (or “Battle of the religious ed classes”) to promote friendly competition. Members collect pledges, cash, and food donations. The group collecting the most gets a special treat, reward, or recognition.

### Capture your youth leader

Youth group members: “Capture” your youth leader, minister, or rabbi. The ransom is cash & food for the Hunger Walk from the adult members.

### Sponsor a “Pack-up-a-pick-up

Sponsor a “Pack-up-a-pick-up” day when congregation members bring their cash pledges and bags of donated food and place them in a pick-up truck (or trucks). The caravan of trucks then delivers the food to the Hunger Walk.

### Collect Spare Change

Collect spare change for hunger. Encourage group members to bring either all of their change on a given day, or specific coins on specific days.

# Creative Ideas for Food and Cash Drives:

## Faith Communities

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### Other Ideas

- Have a “Scavenger Hunt for Food.” Youth groups bring a list of food items needed by the foodbank, and go door-to-door in a neighborhood (with appropriate adult supervision) to ask for donations. Assign point values to most needed items.
- Place an empty canoe (or other large container of interest) in the narthex and challenge members to fill it up with donations by the end of the month.
- Have the congregation try to match the total weight of the congregation’s council or board in food donations.
- Have the minister, rabbi or youth group leader can perform a stunt (including shaving beard or mustache, dressing like Elvis, etc.) when the youth group reaches their food donation goal.
- Hold a “Fast for hope” day or meal. Participants give up a specified meal and donate the cost of the meal they would have had for the food shelf.
- Host a “celebrity waiter” lunch or dinner. The meal can be donated, and leaders and other personalities in the congregation serve the participants. The celebrity waiters donate their tips to the food shelf.
- Hold an annual brunch or tea (have a special guest of interest to attract attendees). Proceeds go to the food shelf.
- Hold a “Homeless sleep-out,” where members sleep outdoors to raise awareness for the homeless and hungry. Take pledges for the hours spent, and encourage food donations on site.
- Collect spare change for hunger. Encourage group members to bring either all of their change on a given day, or specific coins on specific days. Provide a coin rolling machine.
- Hold “Tacky Outfit” and/or “Tacky Tie” Day: invite everyone to wear their tackiest. Take cash “votes” for the person wearing the tackiest outfit and/or tie.
- Run a putting challenge — set up a single hole, provide a putter and a ball. Participants pay \$1 per stroke until they sink the ball. Those achieving a hole-in-one are posted for recognition.

### Other

#### Looking for new ideas to encourage and collect nutritious food donations? Try these:

- Ask congregants to bring “meals in a bag,” such as the following:
  - Spaghetti sauce, pasta noodles, Parmesan cheese, canned fruit, and salad dressing.
  - Tuna helper, cans of tuna fish, canned fruit, and muffin mix.
  - Cans of beef stew, cans of green beans or corn, muffin mix, and fruit cocktail.
  - Cans of chili, cans of pears, canned vegetables, box of soda crackers, and jar of peanut butter.
  - Cans of soup, box of soda crackers, canned fruit, juice, and jar of peanut butter.
- Invite the group to bring a different meal each Sunday during March:
  - Week 1 = Breakfast: Hot cereal, canned fruit, bags of sugar, canned juice, muffin mix, and hot cocoa mix.
  - Week 2 = Lunch: Soup, crackers, pickles, tuna, mayo, cookies, and juice.
  - Week 3 = Dinner: Canned beef stew or canned spaghetti sauce and pasta, canned fruit, and dinner roll mix.
  - Week 4 = Personal Products: Toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper and paper towels.

All of the resources you need to plan a great Hunger Walk Campaign are available at:

<http://www.amhungerwalk.org>