



Community Action Program of Lancaster County

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Local Carriers Hope to Collect 175,000 Pounds

National Letter Carriers Food Drive Planned for Saturday May 14

(Lancaster, PA) - The National Association of Letter Carriers will hold their annual food drive on Saturday, May 14.

Stamp Out Hunger will ask residents to donate non-perishable food items for pickup by the carriers on that day.

Households can place canned foods of all types as well as paper products, personal hygiene products and dog food by mailboxes for pick up.

In Lancaster County, the Letter Carriers will deliver the donations to the Community Action Program of Lancaster County's Food Warehouse located at 650 Lafayette Street. Beginning around noon and continuing until approximately 6:00 p.m., volunteers will sort and package the food for redistribution to 40 food pantries throughout the county. **(The majority of the donated food will arrive at the warehouse between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.)**

Frederic Rolando is the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers. He points to hunger statistics released by the Department of Agriculture as a good reason to support the Stamp Out Hunger event. "Those figures show that the number of Americans living in homes lacking sufficient food topped 50 million in 2009, with one in three of those – 17.2 million – a child. Sadly, that represents a 30 percent increase in just one year," concluded Rolando.

Locally, the drive is a collaborative effort between three organizations: the National Association of Letter Carriers – Local 273, Lancaster United Labor Council AFL-CIO, and the Community Action Program of Lancaster County.

Ann Rinier a postal carrier from the Lancaster mail annex, is organizing the drive locally. In past years, the mail carriers have taken in between 100,000 and 200,000 pounds of food from the drive. Rinier said other nonfood items would be

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helpful and acceptable donations. “Soap products, personal hygiene products, laundry detergents and paper products are always in need. Any item that is not expired or packaged in a glass container would certainly be welcomed,” said Rinier. The letter carriers encourage county residents to place their donations by their mailboxes this Saturday so they can be picked up for redistribution to area food pantries.

The Lancaster County Commissioners contract the Food Warehouse to administer the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the PA Department of Agriculture’s State Food Purchase Program for the County. The warehouse is the storage and distribution facility for these commodity foods that are subsequently distributed to food pantries and congregate feeding sites throughout the county for the benefit of low wage earning families.

Community leaders formed CAP of Lancaster County in 1966 to assist low and moderate - income individuals with the resources, skills, and knowledge needed to become self-sufficient. CAP of Lancaster County has a budget of over \$46 million and employs 325 people who provide services to qualified individuals throughout Lancaster County.