



The Local 314 Carpenters Union helped at the Janesville Post office last year during the food drive.

**Local Residents Urged to Donate Food to May 9
Food Drive –
The Need is Great This Year
National Drive is Nation's Largest One-day Effort
to 'Stamp Out Hunger'**

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) announced that its 17th annual national food drive to "Stamp Out Hunger" will be conducted on Saturday, May 9 in over 10,000 cities and towns across America. Much of Rock County is included in the drive, with letter carriers collecting food donations, in most cases, as they deliver mail along their postal routes and local post offices also collect food in their lobbies.

United Way of North Rock County strongly encourages area residents to participate in the food drive. This drive is at a time when food pantries are typically low on food and helps carry them through the summer months. This year is crucial since more people are relying on food pantries due to the economic downturn.

Participating in the drive is easy. Residents of participating communities are asked to leave non-perishable food donations in a bag near their mailbox on Saturday, May 9 before arrival of their letter carrier. Glass containers or out-of-date items should not be included.

If a resident receives a postcard featuring a "Family Circus" cartoon, this indicates their community is participating in the drive.

Kathy Oliver from the Janesville Post Office is organizing letter carriers in the Janesville area. For the Janesville drive, United Way of North Rock County is organizing area union members and other volunteers to assist on the letter carrier routes. Volunteers take food from their trucks, deliver it to the post office to be weighed and distributed equally between ECHO and the Janesville Salvation Army. Other participating community food donations will go to their local food bank. In north Rock County, Orfordville, Footville, Milton, Edgerton, Evansville and Janesville are participating.

Other area post offices organize their own drive. Val Nehls, Orfordville Post Office postmaster, says of their drive, "We had a huge increase in food donations last year and we expect that to happen again this year. When times are tough, people realize the need and give even more."

Edgerton food drive donations go to the Edgerton Community Outreach food pantry. Director Sarah Williams, says, "We're seeing increases in need every month. We see families who were self-sufficient and lose their job, then as people's unemployment runs out, they try to stretch their dollars as far as they can. Even if they're getting unemployment, they're trying to save money and resources because they know unemployment benefits won't last and don't know when they will get a job."

The National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) National Food Drive has emerged as the largest one-day food drive in the nation, with a collection of 73.1 million pounds of food last year. Last year's food drive brought in an impressive 59,115 pounds from the communities of Edgerton, Evansville, Footville, Janesville, Milton, and Orfordville.

*United Way's **LIVE UNITED** message is about Advancing the Common Good
by focusing on the building blocks of a good life – education, income, health and families.*

Serving the communities of Edgerton, Evansville, Footville, Janesville, Milton and Orfordville.

Locally, the National Assoc. of Letter Carriers Branch 572 and United Way of North Rock County do the planning, communications and in many cases, rallying of volunteers to assist. Nationally, the supporters of this annual food drive are United Way of America and local United Ways, Campbell Soup, the Postal Service, Valpak, the AFL-CIO, and Feeding America, the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the nation. For local information, call United Way of North Rock County at 608-757-3040.

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