



# October 26 - November 13

Harvest of Love is an annual food drive held in participating Colorado Springs and Pueblo area schools. All the food and money collected is given to Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado.

Thank you for joining the effort and your continuing commitment to helping feed families right here, in Southern Colorado.

Your participation in this food drive is critical to our success for months to come. We aim to make this process as smooth as possible and are eager to have another successful year.



# Getting Started

## Pre-Drive planning:

- Confirm participation with Care and Share by emailing [Madison@careandshare.org](mailto:Madison@careandshare.org).
  - If your school collected 350 pounds in 2025, Madison will reach out in mid-October to schedule a pick up.  
**Pick ups will be offered November 10-13.**
  - If fewer than 350 pounds were collected in 2024, arrange transportation of food to Care and Share on the last day of your food drive.



- RSVP to attend the **virtual** Harvest of Love Coordinator Kick Off event October 6th from 4:00 - 5:00p.m. by emailing [Madison@careandshare.org](mailto:Madison@careandshare.org).

### - Saturday collection opportunities at King Soopers on November 7th!

- Collect boxes to store food.
  - Printer paper boxes work great.
- Inform teachers, parents and school community by preparing informational flyers to be sent home with all students.
  - Have parent/teacher conferences coming up? This is a great way to send home information directly with the parents.
  - Post on school website and social media accounts.
  - Submit information for school announcements.
- Set up an online fundraising tool where you can create a classroom or grade level pages by emailing [Madison@careandshare.org](mailto:Madison@careandshare.org).
- Notify your school's bookkeeper you'll be collecting money.
- Plan theme days to drive greater participation.
  - Examples: Tuna Tuesday, Meat Mondays, Macaroni Mondays, Whole Grain Wednesdays, Fruity Fridays, PB&J Day, or Breakfast Items Day.
- Create incentive plan for classroom or grade level competitions.
  - Secure prizes.
- Schedule a time for a Care and Share representative to come speak to organizing group by emailing [Madison@careandshare.org](mailto:Madison@careandshare.org).
- Create posters to hang throughout the school with pertinent information or use materials from our marketing toolkit.



## It's October!

All your pre-planning will be realized as food starts to accumulate. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Take pictures and send them to [Donelle@careandshare.org](mailto:Donelle@careandshare.org)
  - Send cute pictures with kids, or your pile of food, and it'll be shared on our social media channels!
- Place reminders in teachers' mailboxes-keeping them motivated is key!
- Send a reminder to parents to encourage and educate them about Harvest of Love.
  - Sample can be found at [careandshare.org/harvestoflove/](http://careandshare.org/harvestoflove/).
- Share on social media!
  - This is a great way to spread the word if you've signed up to use our fundraising tool.
- Donations made in the form of a check are payable to Care and Share Food Bank.
  - Every check donation received will automatically receive a tax acknowledgement letter.



## Home Stretch!

You're in the final days of the collection. Here are a few key things to remember:

- If Care and Share is picking up your food, please label each box with your school name.
  - Template can be found at [careandshare.org/harvest-of-love/](http://careandshare.org/harvest-of-love/).
- Convert coins into a cashier's check if possible!
- Have any funds collected ready on your pick-up day for our driver to secure.
- If you're sending your money to the District bookkeeper, please make sure they indicate your school's name on the check they send us!
- You may send your money in the form of a check to Care and Share Food Bank after the drive concludes on November 14th.
  - **All funds must be received by December 1st for awards consideration.**



## What Does Care and Share Need?

Every year, we're always asked "what do you really need?" **Protein.** This includes non-perishable items like **black beans, pinto beans, peanut butter and canned meat like chicken or tuna.** Incorporating proteins into your drive is greatly appreciated!

Here is a short list of other desired items:

- Cereal
- Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Boxed or Canned Meals

## Resource Library Online

We've compiled some information online that you can view at your convenience by visiting: [careandshare.org/harvest-of-love/](https://careandshare.org/harvest-of-love/).

- Care and Share General Information
- Template email for parents
- Suggested Social Media promotions
- Online Fundraising Platform Information
- Harvest of Love Flyer





## 2026 Awards

All participating schools will receive a certificate of appreciation, which will be mailed to the school in early 2027. The top elementary, middle, high school and non-traditional schools that raise the most food and dollars as well as the Cornucopia Winner (most pounds collected overall), will receive a plaque for display.

## Questions?

Madison Reed, Events and Project Manager  
Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado  
[Madison@careandshare.org](mailto:Madison@careandshare.org)

**For every \$2 donated, Care and Share can acquire  
5 meals of food for our neighbors.**

