

Our Opinion

Easy day to donate food, Help Stamp Out Hunger coming up

Editorial staff | May 8, 2018

Plastic bags donated by Kroger began landing in mailboxes all over Monroe County last weekend. Letter carriers who delivered those bags hope they will make a round trip.

The bags have been provided to make a very easy way to donate food even easier as part of the 26th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This annual event is the largest food drive of the year for Hoosier Hills Food Bank, which teams up every year with the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 828 in the effort.

Those are the letter carriers who hope those bags are filled with nonperishable items and left next to mailboxes on Saturday.

Last year, 94,000 pounds of food were donated in the annual food drive, including 48,000 pounds in Monroe County.

Canned vegetables, canned fruit and canned meat are the most needed items, though all nonperishable items will be accepted. Please don't leave expired food, packages that have been opened, glass jars or any perishable items.

The food collected will be bound for those who need it in the Hoosier Hills Food Bank service area. Branch 828 will be collecting in Monroe County as well as communities with city delivery in Greene, Lawrence and Owen counties in addition to Martinsville, Odon, Orleans and Paoli. Weather won't derail this food drive. But if it does rain, donors are encouraged to put their items in closed plastic bags.

Food bank Executive Director Julio Alonso says the timing of this drive allows the organization to put back several months of food supplies going into a slower donation cycle in the summer months.

The food drive is a labor of love for the letter carriers. Joshua Peterson, NALC Branch 828 president, called food drive Saturday "rewarding" because it gives letter carriers a chance to help their customers to help the food bank and those it serves.

Those sentiments represent a marvelous spirit of generosity, which can be matched through plentiful donations from in Monroe County and throughout our region.

Please give as much as you are able by simply putting a bag or more of food items outside your home Saturday for your letter carrier to pick up.

More information about the food drive can be found at www.StampOutHungerSCI.org.