District seeking donations for annual Holiday Food Drive

To view food drive flyer for listing of foods, contacts and dates – click here

Alachua County Public Schools is seeking last-minute help from the local community to feed hungry children over the holidays.

There are just a few days left in the district's annual Holiday Food Drive, which provided boxes of food for more than 900 families last year. Organizers are seeking donations of food items or money so that the families of hundreds of children who receive free and reduced price meals at school will have enough to eat during the Winter Break.

"Many families are dependent on school meals to feed their children every weekday," said food drive organizer Kelley Kostamo. "They have a hard time feeding their children over school holidays and breaks because it's not part of their regular budget."

A specific list of the food items needed for each box is available on the district's website at http://bit.ly/2Amxssx. The district's goal is to provide all families with similar items, including enough food for regular meals during the break and a holiday meal.

Donations of food can be dropped off at Terwilliger and Chiles Elementary Schools between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and at Lincoln Middle School between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Arrangements can also be made for donations to be picked up by emailing Kostamo at kostamkb@gm.sbac.edu or calling (352) 955-7250, ext. 235.

"People may have some extra food that they bought for the Hurricane but didn't end up using," said Kostama. "We'd be happy to have those items as well."

The district is also using monetary donations to purchase food. Such donations can be made online at The Education Foundation of Alachua County website at www.edfoundationac.org. Donors should select 'Donate' from the bar at the top of the page, enter the donation amount and payment information, then choose 'Food Baskets' as the Special Purpose designation.

The deadline for food donations is Dec. 5. The deadline for monetary contributions is Dec. 13.

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