

Post office holds annual food drive
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High Point Enterprise

HIGH POINT — Mail carriers who arrive at your mailbox Saturday will hope to pick up more than letters and bills.

The U.S. Postal Service's annual food drive will collect non-perishable food items Saturday to be donated to the United Way of Greater High Point and distributed to local food banks. Mail carriers will pick up the items on their daily routes for the national event.

Items such as canned meat and fruit, soups, peanut butter, pasta or cereal can be collected, according to a release from the United Way. The nonprofit organization reports that local food banks have experienced a "critical and ongoing need" for the items.

Participating may be easier for some this year thanks to Wal-Mart's introduction of a \$5 food bag for the event, said David Albertson, manager of customer service at the High Point Post Office on E. Green Drive. Simply purchase the bag that's already filled with various non-perishable items and leave it by your mailbox, he said.

Or, purchase your own non-perishable items and package them in plastic bags or cardboard boxes rather than glass jars or other materials that could break during transit.

The nationwide event collected 28,983 pounds of food in High Point alone last year. Officials at the United Way and the post office hope that number will be exceeded this year.

"We've seen that most everyone, especially during bad economic times like now, is more willing to donate," Albertson said. "People were more willing to donate last year than they were in the past. Participation has been good."

He said it's not only crucial to the community to contribute to the food drive this year, but it's also simple.

"It's easy for everyone," he said. "All you have to do is put the food where you receive your mail. We'll do the rest."

Food collections in the area will benefit 13 local food banks including Open Door Ministries, The House of Prayer, The Salvation Army and Triad Health Project.

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