



# YOUth CAN Make a Difference Food Drive INFORMATION and GUIDELINES

Thursday, October 1 – Thursday, October 15, 2026

All public, private, parochial, and home schools, afterschool programs, youth organizations, and church groups are invited to partner with

## 4-H

as we *“pledge our HANDS to larger service...”*  
working together to ‘make the best better’ for community.

- REGISTRATION DEADLINE - Wednesday, September 23, 2026
- Email completed REGISTRATION FORM to [saudi.jones@uvi.edu](mailto:saudi.jones@uvi.edu)
- Decide if you will take part in the House of CANS – Kids CANstruction Competition
- Set a collection goal
- Advertise your food drive at your school or site.
- Invite faculty, staff, fellow students, friends and family to help
- Develop a challenge at your school or site to see who can collect the most food
- Launch your drive Thursday, October 1 – Thursday, October 15, 2026
- Pack your food items in sturdy boxes that can be lifted.
- Tape boxes securely, affix labels and mark boxes with site name indicating “1 of X” number.
- Deliver your food to the UVI Great Hall Thursday, October 15, 2026
- ***WEIGH-IN is on Thursday, October 15, 2026, following the Hunger Banquet***
- Make sure you have a representative team of YOUth on hand to take pictures that will be shared on social media.

Each site registered will receive 12 heavy duty small packing boxes and packing tape compliments of Home Depot. Sites must provide any additional boxes.

For more information about how YOUth CAN Make a Difference, please contact:

***Saudi Jones, Extension Agent - Foods & Nutrition  
4-H/Family & Consumer Sciences Program  
(340) 692-4087; [saudi.jones@uvi.edu](mailto:saudi.jones@uvi.edu)***



## REGISTRATION FORM

# YOUTH CAN Make a Difference Food Drive

October 1-15, 2026

Email form to:

[saudi.jones@uvi.edu](mailto:saudi.jones@uvi.edu)

on or before Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Weigh-In:

Thursday, October 15, 2026, following Hunger Banquet

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| School/Group/Club Name:     |              |
| POINT of CONTACT:           | ADULT EMAIL: |
|                             | ADULT PHONE: |
| SECONDARY POINT of CONTACT: | YOUTH EMAIL: |
|                             | YOUTH PHONE: |

Sites will receive **signage** to post at their collection site(s) along with **12 Home Depot boxes and tape** to box up initial collections. Sites will be responsible for providing/sourcing additional boxes as needed, and delivering collected items to UVI on Thursday, October 16 for the official WEIGH IN following the Hunger Banquet. Please be sure to have a team of youth present for this great photo and media event!

### ***EXTEND THE LEARNING with an exemplary STEAM activity–***

Register a team for the House of CANS – Kids CANstruction Contest! Form a team of young food engineers. Use creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to research, experiment with, and design a free-standing structure using the food items collected. The contest will take place during WORLD FOOD DAY on Sunday, October 18, 2026. Please refer to CANstruction Contest information and registration.