

Dear LREI Community:

For the past few weeks, our Lower School community has been busy collecting food for our food drive, and we need your help! Thanks to those of you who have brought in non-perishable food items with your children, it really makes a difference. Unfortunately, this year we have received fewer food donations than last year.

We worry that as our food drive becomes more standard within our walls, that we may lose sight of our mission, and the importance of this endeavor. Here are some statistics to help us remind ourselves how important the food drive is, and the difference we can make with a seemingly small effort.

- Over 1000 soup kitchens serve up to 1.5 million New Yorkers
- Half of food assistance programs have to turn away people due to lack of food
- Rate of food insecurity has risen over 13% since 2000
- 1 out of 4 NYC children turn to food pantries during the year
- There is currently 1.5 million pounds less of food to distribute to NYC's hungry

Please watch the bulletin boards outside of your child's classroom for the dates of the food drive. LREI has a commitment to the St. John's Food Pantry that we take very seriously. When everyone takes part in the food drive, lives can truly be changed.

So please take a moment to gather up some food and bring it into your child's classroom!

Thank you,

The Community Service Committee