Throughout the US, we are continuing to see an average increase of over 55% more people visiting food banks than before the pandemic. In fact, they expect there to be a supply gap of 8 billion meals needed to feed community members.

You can help!

During April and May, we will be celebrating Servathon, Sodexo’s largest global Stop Hunger event where employees around the world join forces, engage their teams, and fight hunger in their local communities. Although many of us are unable to gather in large groups, we can still make a BIG impact by individually engaging in food drive activities. There are three suggested ways that you and your teams, as well as family and friends, can engage in food drive activities.

1. **Virtual Food Drive**
   - **Raise money with a virtual food drive.**
     - Make a financial contribution to the Virtual Servathon Food Drive. You can participate as an individual or consider creating or joining a team. Teams may include EBRGs, segments, accounts or office sites. The amount of money being raised by each team is easily visible on the main page of the virtual food drive. Your team may also designate a specific charity to receive the money raised from your team’s efforts. The Stop Hunger Foundation will ensure all donations reach the appropriate charities. The Stop Hunger team will also help record how much money is raised by each team in the GRANTS KPI tracking system.

2. **Traditional Food Drive... with a twist**
   - **Traditional food drive with a twist.**
     - You can do this as an individual or a group. Even if your group is in different locations, you can work together to make a great impact in a local community. Here are two suggestions for implementing food collection:
       - **Example 1:** If you and your friends/colleagues are in the same area, you could each set a goal to collect a specific number of bags of food from local neighbors and then all contribute your collections to the same local non-profit agency. In the GRANTS KPI tracking system, one person would report the total amount of food collected and the non-profit charity where the food was donated. Each individual person could then log their personal volunteer hours in Sodexo’s volunteer platform: the Goodness Platform.
       - **Example 2:** If you and your friends/colleagues are in different areas but part of a group (EBRG, segment, office), then just as in example 1, you could set a goal to collect a certain amount of food and then each donate individually to a different non-profit charity within your community. We would then ask that each person individually log the amount of food collected and the non-profit charity where the food was donated in the GRANTS KPI tracking system.

   However, if you want to tell a story of your group’s collective efforts, the story might read, “[EBRG] collected 100 bags of food to benefit 5 non-profit organizations working to fight hunger in 3 states.” This is a wonderful story of group effort!

3. **Front Porch Food Drive**
   - **Organize a front porch food drive.**
     - This is an easy to implement event if you, or one of your team members, feels confident that they can rally together at least 5 volunteers to collect food from community members. The Front Porch Food Drive is the perfect way to engage the local community in fighting hunger while also safely social distancing. This food drive is the result of a collaboration between the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation, Move For Hunger and a local community in Maryland. The goal of this food drive is just like a traditional on-site food drive - collect non-perishable food items to help local non-profit charities who are serving food insecure children and families. If you collect more than 50 bags, or 5 boxes of food, Move For Hunger will help coordinate moving the food with a local, reputable transportation company. Click here to learn more about the step by step process.

Two More Suggestions:

1. If you have a group of people, you may choose to implement Option 1, 2 or 3, or any combination of the three.
   - Recently, a Sodexo group raised $2,000.00 through a virtual food drive AND donated food to a local food pantry.

2. Consider challenging another group to raise money or gather food for a donation.

Taking Pictures:

For any live events, we encourage taking pictures but ask that you please adhere to all Sodexo safety guidelines, practice social distancing and wear a mask at all times. Also, pictures will require photo releases if sharing publicly.