Thank you for a Successful Summer Food Drive (July to September 2021)

It is with profound gratitude that I write this letter of thanks to all of our Faith and Community Partners who participated in this year’s InterFaith Works Summer Food Drive. It was a huge success. Within three months, we were able to collect more than 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items and close to $2,000 in cash donations.

During this pandemic, we have seen a substantial number of people going without adequate food to feed their families. The demand for food at our local pantries has skyrocketed to a level never seen before. It has been a rough 19 months since the pandemic began. Previously, the need for food was already great, but it has since been exacerbated by the pandemic to the point where many families are consistently food insecure and often risk going to bed hungry.

This food drive has shown us that when we band together as neighbors and give a helping hand to those in need among us, we unequivocally participate in the act of progressing toward a society healed by love. With your donations to our Pantry Partners programs, you have helped feed hundreds of families who might have otherwise gone to bed hungry.

Our Pantry Partners Program is InterFaith Works’ response to the need for food security within underserved communities in Syracuse. We have 20 pantries associated with the program that feeds families in need on a weekly/monthly basis. Our pantries are Food Bank-certified, independent, and located in Black and Brown communities. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, our Pantry Partners Program has fed approximately 18,000 individuals.

The Summer Food Drive might have ended in September, but hunger and food insecurity have not. They continue to threaten thousands of families across the city. We encourage our faith partners to continue collecting non-perishable food items, as well as cash donations, in order to support the local pantries serving the most vulnerable among us.

Here are the names of the community and faith partners that participated in this summer’s food drive:

1. United Healthcare
2. Onondaga County Office for Aging
3. Holy Family Church
4. St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church
5. St. Albans Episcopal Church
6. Christ Church in Manlius
7. United Church of Fayetteville
8. Village Cleaners (Jamie Cook)
9. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
10. Immaculate Heart of Mary
11. Pope John XXIII Roman Catholic Church
12. Mission Hope Community
13. Jamesville Community Church
14. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
15. Women Transcending Boundaries
16. Wegmans Food Markets
17. Individuals who donated singularly
I would also like to thank the Interreligious Food Consortium for partnering with us. They have been amazing at storing the collected food items and then distributing them to our Pantry Partners.

Best Regards,

Garang Ajak, Program Manager
Center for Dialogue & Action, InterFaith Works