



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

August 22, 2024

To all members of the Vermont Legal Community:

It's been eight years since Vermont's legal community first banded together in support of Vermonters in need. In the eight-year history of the food drive, the Vermont Legal Community has raised more than \$70,000 and collected over 12,000 food items. For the first time last year, diapers were added as essential nonperishable collection items. Whether you are a lawyer, paralegal, judge, investigator, law student, professor, or staff member of a legal team: together, we can make a meaningful impact.

In recognition of September as Hunger Action Month, the Attorney General's Office, Vermont Bar Association, and Vermont Paralegal Organization have once again partnered with the Vermont Foodbank to hold the eighth annual ***Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive***. **This two-week fundraiser will begin on Friday, September 6, 2024, and end on Friday, September 20, 2024.**

The Vermont Foodbank provides critical resources to our neighbors facing hunger by distributing food across all of Vermont's 14 counties through their many programs and services, including distributing food to partner food shelves and meal sites, sharing fresh produce directly with Vermonters, assisting neighbors in accessing 3SquaresVT benefits, and reducing barriers to accessing food.

This year's food drive will be structured similarly to years past, with an optional friendly competition in the interest of keeping food on Vermonters' tables. Here is how you as an individual member of Vermont's legal community or your whole organization or firm can consider participating:

- 1. Create a Vermont Foodbank virtual fundraising page.** All funds will be collected through your unique fundraising page hosted by the Vermont Foodbank. Participants manage their own fundraising pages, including noting efforts through the Activity Feed. Participants will receive easy instructions on how to create their fundraising pages after signing up.

2. **Host a collection box.** In addition to, or instead of, creating a virtual fundraising page, participants may choose to collect food items and/or diapers for donation. Templates to create collection boxes will be provided to those who choose this option.
3. **Diaper collection.** In addition to food donations, the Attorney General's Office would like to once again bring focus to diapers. There is no government safety net for families with diaper need. Pandemic-era support of diaper distributions to food shelves has ended, but Vermont families who continue to feel the effects of inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic shouldn't have to struggle with diapering their children. In conjunction with the food drive, please consider collecting diapers for your local diaper bank, parent child center, or food pantry.

To sign up for the food drive, please **return the attached sign-up sheet to Natasha.Sala@vermont.gov by Wednesday, September 4**, and identify how you or your organization would like to participate. Participants will receive additional instructions after signing up.

All members of the Vermont Legal Community are welcome to join this effort. We encourage participants to engage others in this collective good work on social media by using the hashtag #VTLegalFoodDrive.

The results of the food drive, including the friendly competition, will be announced by press release after the food drive ends. On Friday, September 27, I will announce the results at the Vermont Bar Association Annual Meeting Luncheon.

As a member of the Vermont Legal Community, I hope that you will join my colleagues in the Vermont Attorney General's Office, the Vermont Foodbank, the Vermont Bar Association, and the Vermont Paralegal Organization to make the ***Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive*** a success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charity R. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "C" at the beginning.

Charity R. Clark
Vermont Attorney General