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To all members of the Vermont Legal Community:

Vermonters continue to struggle to keep food on the table. The COVID-19 pandemic caused food insecurity to reach [record-high levels](#) in Vermont, and with recent [inflation](#), the need for services continues. 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.

Vermont's Legal Community can continue to support Vermonters experiencing food insecurity and the vital work of the Vermont Foodbank.

In recognition of September as Hunger Action Month, the Attorney General's Office, Vermont Bar Association, and Vermont Paralegal Organization have partnered with the Vermont Foodbank to hold the sixth annual ***Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive***. **This two-week fundraiser will begin on Friday, September 2, 2022, and end on Friday, September 16, 2022.**

In the five-year history of the food drive, the Vermont Legal Community has raised more than \$50,000 and collected over 11,000 food 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.

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 or your organization 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 for donation. Templates to create collection boxes will be provided to those who choose this option.

To sign up for the food drive, please **return the attached sign-up sheet to Natasha.Sala@vermont.gov by Wednesday, August 31**, and identify how you or your organization would like to participate. Participants will receive additional instructions after signing up.

Every dollar amount and every effort to further this cause will help.

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, October 7, the results will also be announced 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. Together, we can help our neighbors.

Sincerely,



Susanne R. Young
Vermont Attorney General

**6th ANNUAL
LEGAL COMMUNITY FIGHTING HUNGER FOOD DRIVE
PARTICIPATION FORM**

Type of Team

I would like to participate as an **INDIVIDUAL** member of the legal community.

I would like to participate as an **OFFICE** of any combination of members of the legal community. (ie. Vermont Attorney General's Office)

I would like to participate as a **LEGAL GROUP** of any combination of members of the legal community. (ie. Vermont Bar Association, Vermont Paralegal Organization)

Type of Participation

I would like to create a virtual Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive fundraising page where I or my office or my legal group can make monetary donations and also track food items that are gathered.

I would like to start a donation box in a place where shelf-stable, non-perishable items can be collected by me or my office or my legal group for delivery to my local food shelf or meal site at the close of the Food Drive.

I would like to do both A and B.

Other Information

My individual/office/legal group name as I would like it to appear in any press release on this event is:

My e-mail address for purposes of contacting myself, my office, or my legal group is:

I, my office, or my legal group would / would not like to participate in the friendly competition and understand I or we will, regardless of the competition, still be recognized as a participant in any press release on this event.

***Please return this form by e-mail to: natasha.sala@vermont.gov.
You will then receive further information.***