



Donation Guidelines for the Food Program at the Hope Clinic

Thank you for donating to the Hope Clinic Food program! We truly appreciate your support. Food safety is our first priority and responsibility. With health department regulations and occasionally limited storage, we must sometimes decline donations. The guidelines below will let you know if we can accept an item and you are encouraged to contact us with additional questions at 734-484-2989 or eweinert@thehopeclinic.org

Dry Goods and Canned Goods:

We accept all NONEXPIRED and UNOPENED dry goods and canned goods, (such a pasta, rice, nut butters, canned fruits and vegetables, snacks etc.) that have been commercially packaged and include nutrition and allergen information.

Meat and Dairy:

All meat must be commercially processed and labeled, and all dairy must be U.S. Dept. Of Agriculture (USDA) inspected. All items must be unexpired. All meat must be frozen, and cannot have thawed and refrozen during transport or at any other time. Dairy cannot be out of refrigeration for more than 30 minutes during transport or at any other time. We cannot accept eggs or other items from family farms or backyard chicken coups that have not been inspected by the USDA.

Produce:

We can accept all unspoiled produce! You are welcome to donate extra produce from the store, your backyard garden or a farmer's market. Please leave out any items with bruises or inedible sections larger than a golf ball. We cannot take pre-sliced fruits and vegetables that are not commercially packaged (at a licensed kitchen) and don't have a use-by date.

Baked Goods/Prepared Food:

All items must be prepared in a commercial kitchen. We cannot accept or serve baked goods or other foods prepared in a home kitchen. Prepared foods from a retailer, restaurant or caterer must be approved by Hope Clinic before being donated. Trays of food cannot be partially consumed. Items cannot be repackaged outside of a commercial kitchen and must be relabeled to inform consumers that we do not have allergen information for the product.

Nonfood Groceries:

The Hope Clinic does not accept donated clothing except under very special circumstances. Our clients are given vouchers to the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop, please donate any textiles there. We are happy to accept unopened grocery items such as personal hygiene items, paper products and home cleaning supplies. During the winter months, we will take clean, high-quality gloves and hats. We also take clean, sturdy (not torn) reusable totes bags and paper and plastic bags. We accept **unopened** travel size hygiene products. Please sort these items before donating.

Program Supplies:

People contact the Food Program if you have program supplies such as paper plates, cups, plastic gloves, bulk cleaning supplies, etc. We have some limitations on what we can use, as well as storage constraints, but may be able to use these items in our meal program.