



# BLUE TABLE

**TOOLS AND TIPS TO HELP GUIDE  
AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY  
FOOD DRIVES**



**University at Buffalo**  
Student Life



# Blue Table Community Toolkit

- 1. Getting Started**
- 2. Food Drive Tips**
- 3. Healthy Food Wish List**

## **1. Getting Started**

Blue Table exists through the generous support of the UB and Buffalo community. Donated food and funds sustain Blue Table and help keep students healthy and safe.

A food drive has one focus: collecting non-perishable food for Blue Table. Blue Table has a specific inventory of healthy food options and food drives should support that inventory.

Whether you are working with a specific population of students, faculty or staff, within an office or department, or within the Buffalo community, food drives can bring a group or team together to support students.

## 2. Food Drive Tips

Donations are incredibly important - whether they are donated food items or funds. Hosting a food drive is a fun and easy way to engage members of your UB community.

- Establish a team or committee to organize your drive. It is helpful to designate one person that will coordinate with Blue Table.
- Determine a time frame. Most food drives are successful when they run for 1-2 weeks.
- Promote the drive to your community. E-mails, flyers, posters, and social media are successful marketing approaches. Need a jumpstart? Use the attached Blue Table branded flyer template.
- Utilize the Healthy Food Wish List. Blue Table offers only these specific food items and only these items should be collected during a drive.
- Obtain sturdy boxes or bins and establish a drop-off location. Contact Blue Table to coordinate how and when you will deliver your collections. Collecting food in a visible, highly-trafficked space helps raise awareness of Blue Table!
- What if someone wants to donate funds? Cash cannot be collected as part of a food drive, but monetary donations can be made directly to Blue Table at [buffalo.edu/blue-table](https://buffalo.edu/blue-table)



### 3. Healthy Food Wish List

Blue Table offers the following healthy food options. Only these food items should be collected during food drives.

#### Fruits & Vegetables

- Fruit – canned/cups
- Vegetables – canned
- Soup/stew/chili

#### Grains

- Pasta
- Rice or quinoa
- Rice noodles
- Cereal
- Granola bars
- Crackers

#### Proteins

- Beans/lentils – canned/dry
- Nuts
- **Peanut butter**  
*(Peanut butter is one of the most requested items!)*
- Chicken – canned/pouch
- Tuna – canned/pouch

#### Mixes/Instant Meals

- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta/ravioli – canned
- Oatmeal

#### Sauces

- Tomato sauce

#### Questions

Do you have any questions about the Blue Table Community Toolkit?  
Contact Student Unions at 716-645-2055 or [buffalo.edu/blue-table](http://buffalo.edu/blue-table)

