

Service Project

Repackage Bulk Pet Food

Want an easy volunteer project to do at your workplace, neighborhood, or school that will make a difference in the lives of local individuals and families at the same time? Have fun with your team members while you work to package pet food into smaller containers for distribution to low-income families visiting the Interfaith Outreach food shelf.

Pets are often an important part of a household, especially for individuals or seniors who may live alone. When budgets get tight or fixed incomes are small, expenses like pet food can be a stress. Thanks for your help in supplying pet food for families we serve.

- ◆ Your group will need to provide the pet food and re-closable gallon size plastic bags (like Ziploc®).
- ◆ Each bag needs to be labeled with details about the pet food: name, ingredient list, caution messages, etc. This can be printed on a mailing label or on paper that can be inserted inside the clear plastic bag. This information can be found on the original container.

The Interfaith Outreach food shelf is run by community volunteers like you. We appreciate your help delivering the pet food donation to Interfaith Outreach after your service project.

Please see the next page for details for setting up and executing this project.

Questions? Contact Ashley Wyatt (awyatt@iocp.org, 763-489-7505) or Liz Erstad-Hicks (lerstad-hicks@iocp.org, 763-489-7506).

Most groups will set up this project to do over the lunch hour and promote it as “speed volunteering.” Each team member helps for 10-15 minutes. This gives everyone an opportunity to contribute for a reasonable amount of money.

In advance of the event:

1. Collect enough copier paper boxes (or similar type containers) to use for the delivery of the pet food.
2. Arrange for two people to deliver the pet food to the Interfaith Outreach food shelf when you’re finished. Deliver during Interfaith's donation hours, Monday or Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
3. Before opening the bag of pet food, copy the important information to use on your label (i.e. name, ingredients, warning messages, etc.). Use this to create the labels or paper inserts.
4. Set up two 6 or 8 foot tables end to end with about six feet of space between them. Put 2 chairs at all four short ends of the tables. (Total of 8 chairs)
5. Put 1-2 large bags of pet food in the center of each table and four scoops (coffee mugs work well). At the end of each table place a box of the plastic bags, a stack of labels and a stack of ingredient list slips. Have one empty copier paper box on the floor on each side of each table.

At the event:

1. Have one person at each end of each table apply the labels to the bags or insert the paper with product information inside the bag.
2. Have four people (two on each side of each table) take the labeled bags and scoop in enough pet food to fill the gallon size bag. Seal the bag securely and put it in the empty copier paper box.
3. When all the pet food has been packaged, have the designated volunteers deliver the packages to the Interfaith Outreach food shelf.