



GO Teams Guides: In-kind Collection

In-kind collections offer a great way to have a big impact in your community and there are some many different ways you can design a collection that is perfect for their team. Organizations that are tackling housing and food insecurity are always in need of donations to help them accomplish their mission. Winter collections are popular because people are in the mood to donate and you can harness that energy. Spring is also a good time to organize a collection. Because they get so many donations in the winter, many shelters and food shelters experience their lowest donations during the spring. Whatever time you choose, your donations will be appreciated!

Collections also offer opportunities for everyone in your community to participate. If someone has money and no time, they can make purchases to donate. If someone has time, but no money for donations, they can volunteer their time to organize the collection and deliver the items. In-kind collections can be done on their own or as part of another event. They can be one-off in honor of a specific event or they can recurring.

Tips to Get Started

Pick a beneficiary for your collection. If you don't have a beneficiary in mind, you can search these databases for an organization in your area:

- [Homeless Shelters Directory](#)
- [Domestic Violence Shelters Directory](#)
- [Feeding America Food Bank Directory](#)
- [LGBT Homeless Youth Services Directory](#)
- [Women's Shelters Directory](#)





You can also look for other kinds of organizations to support like local refugee and immigration organizations; mutual aid groups; LGBT community centers; hospitals and hospices; senior centers; or book banks.

Collect the right items. Once you know who you want to do a collection for, check their website before promoting your collection or making any purchases. They will have a list of routinely and urgently needed items. If they don't have a list posted on their website or social media, contact the organization to find out what needs they currently have. Keep in mind that while some soup kitchens will accept home-cooked foods, they may have strict requirements, and many do not accept home-cooked foods at all.



There are a few ways to gather items for your collection. There is no right answer. It all depends on what works best for you and your volunteers.

- Pick a day, drop-off window, and location and have everyone bring their donations during that time.
- Tell folks they can bring their donations to any of your other events during the collection period.
- Often folks can order online and have the items delivered directly to the organization. (Confirm the best

address to mail to with the organization.) They can also order off of the organization's Amazon Wish List if they have one. If anyone orders anything online, make sure they tell you about it so that you know the full impact of your collection!

Organize delivery. Some organizations accept donations at any time. Some have specific days or times when they receive donations. Either way, you'll likely have a big enough donation that you'll need to organize a time for delivery so they will be ready for you. Get in touch with the organization and make a plan with them. If you anticipate a big enough collection, they may come pick it up.



Spread the word. Once you know what you want to collect, tell everyone about it. Send emails. Post on social media. Make announcements at your other events.

Gather data. Keep track of how many items were collected and donated and by how many people/families. That way you can let everyone know how big their impact was!

For more ideas check out GO Teams fundraising idea guides on our [resources](#) page!

Questions or Concerns?

If you need help with planning your event or have additional questions, the best way to contact GO Humanity is to use the [contact webform](#), which enables us to track the resolution of your question.