



Thanksgiving Food Donations

Each year on Thanksgiving, DC Central Kitchen delivers 5,000 special meals to shelters, transitional homes, and rehabilitation clinics in the DC area. We provide each of our partner agencies with a full turkey dinner, complete with traditional sides and accompaniments.

Turkey Donations:

Turkeys – the centerpiece of a great Thanksgiving meal – are the most needed items. We need at least 400 whole turkeys to complete the 5,000 meals we make. **It is a great help to our operations if you are able to donate turkeys in mid-October**, although we do accept turkey donations through the end of November.

- **Turkey Drives:** Consider organizing a turkey drive within your office, religious organization, or your friends and family. See “Drop-off Guidelines” below for delivery information.
- **Individual Donations:** Each and every turkey is a huge help. If you are interested in donating a turkey, you can drop it off according to the time schedule listed below.

Thanksgiving Food Items:

- Canned green beans
- Canned applesauce
- Cranberry sauce
- Bulk spices
- Stuffing mix

Pies:

Home-baked pies are a classic part of Thanksgiving meals. Please follow these guidelines:

- Stick to traditional flavors and fillings such as **pumpkin** and **apple**
- Bake pies in **disposable aluminum pie tins**
- Try to prepare the pies the week of or weekend before Thanksgiving to maintain freshness
- Pies must be packaged in **pie boxes** for storage and transportation reasons

Drop-off Guidelines:

Our regular hours for drop-offs are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on weekends.

If you plan to collect donations for us, please contact Amy Bachman, Procurement and Sustainability Manager, at 202-400-2806 or abachman@dccentralkitchen.org. It is crucial to the success of our Thanksgiving meal delivery that we keep records of all pledged donations.