

October 27, 2009



Dear CLC, CDS, and PDO Families,

On Tuesday, October 27, we will kick off our annual food drive to collect canned and non-perishable items for Thanksgiving baskets. We hope to provide assistance to needy families in the Collierville community as well as the Memphis area. Our goal is to provide families with a nutritious assortment of food. Central Learning Center families, CDS families, and families of Parent's Day Out and Preschool will join forces to accomplish this goal.

Last year we were able to provide baskets for more than 50 families. Additional food and money collected went to the Collierville Food Pantry and some was distributed through Central Church. The rest was used to make baskets for needy families in the Memphis area. The Community Services Agency of Shelby County (CSA) coordinates this distribution through inner-city churches.

Items such as peanut butter, macaroni and cheese box dinners, cereal, soups, pasta, rice, canned meats, and canned fruits and vegetables are most needed. We also need staple items such as flour, sugar, corn meal, biscuit mix, and cornbread mix. Please make sure items are "in date". We will gladly accept any non-perishable items or cash donations.

Please send all donated items to the classroom. We will collect food from October 27 until November 13. CDS seventh and eighth graders will sort the food daily, then pack baskets for distribution. Teachers will be keeping a total of the number of items brought in, and the class who collects the most number of items per student will receive an ice cream sundae party compliments of the CDS-PTF. For tabulation purposes, cash donations will count as two items per one dollar. Because of their affordability, one single package of Ramen noodles counts as ½ item. For example, five packages of Ramen noodles counts as 2.5 items.

God calls us to serve those in need, and the need in our community is so great. So, don't delay in gathering your items and sending them in to school. Your generosity is very much appreciated by those who receive help. As always, thank you for your support and cooperation as we help needy families in our community.

God Bless You,

Libby Heston and Karen Ferguson, PDO Coordinators
John Spice, Central Day School Principal
Ron Blackard, Central Learning Center Director