YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Involving Students in the Fight Against Hunger
Who We Are

Maria Rose Belding

- Senior at Pella High School in Pella, IA
- Published novelist
- 2012 GYI delegate and 2013 Wallace-Carver Fellow

Tariro Makoni

- Senior at Our Redeemer’s School in Minot, ND
- Founder of “A Hoping Friend”
- 2012 GYI delegate and 2013 Borlaug-Ruan Intern
What We Do – World Food Prize

Maria – Wallace Carver Fellowship

Tariro – Borlaug Ruan Internship
What We Do – M.E.A.N.S.

Feed the Hungry

M.E.A.N.S.

Matching Excess And Need for Stability

Reduce Waste

Save Resources

Resources!
What We Do – Fighting For Food

Managing Donations

Your drive is now in full swing. Congrats! Most of your work is done. Now you just need to be doing a few things to ensure you don’t end up overwhelmed later.

First and foremost, go through all of your donations for expired goods. It takes a lot of work if you want to do it all at once, but if you find team members willing to give up a day or two’s study hall, you can sort each day and it won’t take too long. You can also offer the same incentives for students or outside your team who are willing to do the same. This makes sure that you aren’t inadvertently punishing food insecure students who cannot afford food, because they need it themselves. This puts everyone on a level playing field, and you’ll be glad for the help.

It’s really important to go through all of the goods and toss the expired stuff. Trust us, you’re done. It’s embarrassing to your school to give outdated goods, especially when it’s really obvious that someone knew something was expired and didn’t act on it anyway. Additionally, a relatively high percentage of donations - around 5 to 10% in our experience - are expired, and you don’t want these goods reflecting poorly on your school. You don’t want to be remembered as the school who gave the soup from 1999. [This has actually happened multiple times. We know. Ew.]

Sometimes dates are hard to find, so trust your gut. If you can’t check the can without feeling somewhat grossed out or you can’t find a date, toss it. It is against the law for food drives to give clients expired goods, and you’re saving them a ton of work by giving up a little bit of your time to sort for them. They will really appreciate this.

Also be keeping track of how much you’re taking in. You don’t need a number down to the can, but a good estimate and data collection can help you plan your year next year’s drive. Each can or box of food is considered to be around one pound, so if you fill about 25 cans or boxes into a grocery bag, you have about 50 pounds. It adds up quickly and can also be really motivating to sit and realize how much food you’re giving to those in need.
20 Tips For Working With Teenagers

1. We’re People, Too
   - We can be an intimidating demographic, but you don’t need to have immense amounts of savvy in social media or slang to communicate. To win us over you don’t have to try so hard—just talk to us like real people.

2. You Don’t Need to Reinvent the Wheel
   - You don’t need to create brand new groups of youth. Go after ones that already exist—like sports teams, youth groups, and student councils. Just be sure to keep things relevant. If they are interested in things like sports, then make all projects sports orientated, and then as the year progresses and they get more acclimated to these projects, one can successfully branch out from the “normal” environment.

3. We Already Sit In A Classroom for Eight Hours A Day
   - Sitting and listening to a lecture is tough even for adults—even if one is genuinely interested in the topic at hand. Show, don’t tell—we love hands-on, tangible activities that allow us to get up and move, think, communicate and share our ideas.

4. We Might Lack Confidence
   - Shocking, right? Actually a lot of us assume we can’t make a difference because we’re told we are too young all the time—to drive, to date, to do lots of the things we’d really like to do. A lot of us assume service is just another thing that “will come in time”, because we’re “too young to understand”. We’re not, and tell us so. We’ll appreciate your vote of confidence.

5. We Might Feel Overwhelmed By It, Too
   - You know that feeling when you watch the news and feel totally helpless towards whatever crisis is currently rocking the world? Yep. We feel like that sometimes, too. If you give us the tools to change something, we’ll feel like we actually can.
Our Mentors - Community

Tariro
- Erica Gade
  - English instructor
- Phil Minerich
  - VP of R & D, Hormel

Maria
- Mark Solomon
  - Social Studies instructor
- Cory Berkenes
  - Iowa Food Bank Association
Our Mentors – World Food Prize

Keegan Kautzky

Lisa Fleming

Catherine Swoboda
THANK YOU

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