

Would You “Let Them Eat Cake”?

Although it's now thought to be an example of urban myth, disinformation or enemy propaganda, it was once accepted as historical fact that Marie Antoinette, Queen of France at the time of the first French Revolution, when told that the people in the streets were starving from lack of bread, reportedly said "Well, then let them eat cake!" Long sited as an example of the nobility's contempt for the plight of the common citizen, this phrase became a protest slogan, repeated often and loudly, in situations of stark social inequality in years past.



Well, perhaps it's time to take up the chant once more. But this time it really is about food. Namely, what students on free and reduced price meal plans in our schools will eat on the weekends and during holiday breaks? Thankfully, there is something you can do. You (and as many friends, children, youth and adults as you can round up) can launch your own mini-food drive by using these few easy steps.

First, contact your local neighborhood or community food bank to get their drop off hours. Second, contact your local school district and see if they'll tell you how many students are on meal plans (caution: you might be in for a shock!). Next, go to www.acycp.org and download the **Kibble for Kids flyer template** and add your own specific information. The tear-off portion at the bottom can help you and the food bank identify and track the response rate. Fourth, contact your choice of government agency, NGO, church, community center or civic group and ask if they'll print up the number of flyers you'd like to distribute. Lastly, round up your posse and take your flyers door-to-door or set up a distribution table in a local shopping mall or similar high-foot-traffic venue.

Then sit back and let the donations roll in. You might also want to contact local media and major businesses, which can get the word out through their

publications and employee networks. Just give them a copy of the flyer, no press releases needed unless you want to do so.

This is a great civic responsibility project for all ages and the food (even in affluent communities) is badly needed. Hunger is one of the greatest challenges facing U.S. children and yet it's one of the most invisible. Food sufficiency is one of the most basic of human needs, which continually needs to be renewed.

This year, don't let hunger steal the joy of the holiday spirit from the children and youth in your area!