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NALC Branch 56 president Kyle Inosencio, left, unloads donations during the 2016 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Letter Carriers to Stamp Out Hunger on Their Routes and Online Saturday, May 13

Comstock Park, Michigan — May 2, 2017 — On Saturday, May 13, the Grand Rapids letter carriers will take part in [Stamp Out Hunger](#), a nationwide food drive now in its 25th year. The food they collect will be donated to [Feeding America West Michigan](#) and distributed to people in need throughout West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

This year, donors can also give a meal online at FeedWM.org.

“The letter carriers have been supporting us for most of our existence as an organization,” said Feeding America West Michigan president and CEO Ken Estelle. “We’re honored every year by the time and sweat they put into this event. It really is a lot of work, when you think about collecting cans of soup and boxes of rice from close to 200,000 homes on a single day.”

Kyle Inosencio, president of [NALC Branch 56](#), acknowledged that Stamp Out Hunger does demand an extra effort on the part of carriers — especially those with walking routes — but he said it’s well worth it.

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“We’re in every community. We see how [hunger] affects each individual. We definitely have areas we deliver to where we see the hungry children,” Inosencio said, adding that hunger “touches every problem in our community. That’s why we feel we need to help.”

Over its long history, Stamp Out Hunger has provided more than 1.5 billion pounds of food to domestic hunger-relief charities across the country. Last year, the Grand Rapids letter carriers [collected 108,000 pounds of food](#) for Feeding America West Michigan.

Feeding America West Michigan and the Grand Rapids letter carriers decided to amplify the impact this year by adding a virtual food drive component.

“We wanted to open this up to people who care about feeding their neighbors but might not be able to fill a bag with food that Saturday or who might live outside Grand Rapids,” Estelle said.

For every dollar Feeding America West Michigan receives, the organization can distribute the equivalent of four meals to the food pantries, soup kitchens and other agencies in 40 Michigan counties. The virtual food drive runs from May 1-20.

To participate in Stamp Out Hunger, Grand Rapids residents can fill a bag with nonperishable food and leave it by their mailbox in time for their normal delivery on Saturday, May 13. Online donations are accepted at FeedWM.org/StampOutHunger.

Stamp Out Hunger is sponsored in the Grand Rapids area by Meijer, Fox 17, the NALC, USPS and the Kent-Ionia Labor Council.

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About Feeding America West Michigan. Serving local families in need since 1981, Feeding America West Michigan reclaims safe surplus food from farmers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers. That food is distributed through a network of more than 1,000 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other hunger-relief agencies in 40 counties from the Indiana border through the Upper Peninsula. Each year, an estimated 492,100 people receive food from Feeding America West Michigan. For more information, visit FeedWM.org.