

Feds Feed Families sets new record with 2013 food drive

By Allison Eason

NIEHS employees concluded the [2013 Feds Feed Families](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=feds-feed-families) (<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=feds-feed-families>) campaign with its third and final collection Aug. 28, for a total of 3,612 pounds of donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene items. The drive exceeded its goal of 3,500 pounds and topped the previous record set last year.

This marks the fourth year of NIEHS support for the [Durham Rescue Mission](http://www.durhamrescuemission.org/) (<http://www.durhamrescuemission.org/>) and the [Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina](http://www.foodbankcenc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=FBCENCHome). (<http://www.foodbankcenc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=FBCENCHome>)

Coordinators for the 2013 campaign were Office of Management representative Monya Brace, President of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2923 Bill Jirles, and Blacks In Government Research Triangle Park Chapter representative Sheila Withers. Because of their efforts, NIEHS maintains its ranking as one of the most generous organizations in the area and a top performer nationwide.

Part of a nationwide effort

Since 2009, Federal workers have donated and collected 15.2 million pounds of food and other non-perishable items, 7.2 million pounds in 2012 alone, to support families across the U.S. This year marks the fifth Feds Feed Families food drive.

Feds Feed Families accepts food items such as canned seafood, meats, meals, fruits and vegetables, as well as cereal, peanut butter, juice, rice, pasta, and dried beans, in non-glass containers. Infant diapers, wipes, and hygiene products, are also collected.

At NIEHS, items were donated at the main entrances of the Rall and Keystone buildings, 102 building, and the Clinical Research Unit, as well as at other locations in the buildings.

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The coordinators gathered with a sample of the fruits of their labors - food and hygiene items for people in the community needing a hand-up in a difficult economy. Shown above, from left, are Withers, Brace, and Jirles. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



The campaign's banner was hard to miss, as it stretched along the sidewalk of the NIEHS main building. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



Brace smiles as her van began to fill with food and hygiene items from the final collection at the NIEHS Keystone Building. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



As this photo from the June collection shows, the drive brought in a wide range of items from generous employees and contractors. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

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