



Food 'n Fun Festival to help fill assistance center's food pantry

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by [Everett Catts](#)

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Staff / Samantha M. Shal / From left, Community Assistance Center volunteer Lynn Moore, Food 'n Fun Festival co-chair Nancy Doss and board member and event co-chair Judy Pollock fill a shopping cart with cans for the food pantry.

The Community Assistance Center in Sandy Springs is again hosting the Food 'n Fun Festival as an entertaining way to hold what organizers hope will be the largest food drive in Sandy Springs and Dunwoody, the two cities the nonprofit serves.

Set for Saturday at North Springs Charter High School in Sandy Springs, the third annual event will include lunch provided by at least five local restaurants, a can construction challenge in which local organizations will create items out of cans of food with the winners determined by judges, a shopping cart decorating contest and parade, a hunger awareness walk, a battle of the bands, youth choir performances and a kids' zone with children's activities.

Organizers are expecting 1,000 people and donations of at least 25,000 pounds of canned food. While the festival is light-hearted, the mission behind it is serious for the center, which serves needy families.

"People don't realize our demand for donations goes up in the summer," said Judy Pollock, who is co-chairing the event with Nancy Doss. "So having a successful food drive at the beginning of the summer is important. All those kids who get free breakfast and lunch at school are home for three meals a day.

"We get tremendous support from the community but everybody goes on vacation and our donations sort of go on hold in the summer, so it's crucial to have donations this time of year."

Said Pam Jones, the center's development manager, "It is one of our key fundraising and awareness events, primarily around the need for food in our local communities and with the food insecurity issues we face here in Sandy Springs and Dunwoody. We've created this event three years ago out of a need to stock the [food] pantry. Kids are out of school. Parents struggle to feed kids during the summer.

"The festival was made to engage people from all walks of life and to bring resources to the CAC to support that program. The resources are both financial contributions through sponsorships and food donations to stock the pantry."

Pollock, who has co-chaired the festival all three years, said it has grown into a community-wide



Staff / Samantha M. Shal / From left, Community Assistance Center board member and event co-chair Judy Pollock, volunteer and committee member Lynn Moore and event co-chair Nancy Doss, pictured with Sandy Springs resident Samantha Castro, 3, daughter of Leticia Hernandez, will host the Food 'n Fun Festival Saturday at North Springs Charter High School.



Staff / Samantha M. Shal / From left, Community Assistance Center board member and event co-chair Judy Pollock, event co-chair Nancy Doss and volunteer and committee member Lynn Moore will host the Food 'n Fun Festival Saturday at North Springs Charter High School.

event.

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"We hope to have between 40 and 50 decorated shopping carts," she said. "For instance, the [Sandy Springs] police department challenged the fire department to make the most interesting cart. There are also local schools, Brownie troops and organizations [involved]."

"So many schools are getting involved and different banks and businesses are challenging each other for the food drive. The energy is so much better this year."

Want to go?

- o **What:** Food 'n Fun Festival
- o **Benefits:** Community Assistance Center
- o **When:** Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- o **Where:** North Springs Charter High School, 7447 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs
- o **Admission:** free; attendees are asked to bring one at least one can of nonperishable food to donate
- o **Information:** www.ourcac.org/foodnfun

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