OUTSIDE EATS
SPICE RACK + CAN DRIVE
A simple blueprint for collecting starter pantries for people coming home.
OUTSIDEEATS.ORG

THE BLUEPRINT

Stock a first pantry.

One drive, two weeks of collecting, one packing night, one delivery.

THE ASK

A STARTER SPICE BAG PLUS 6 CANS OF BEANS, LENTILS AND VEGETABLES FOR EACH PERSON GOING HOME.

THE RUN

COLLECT AT A CHURCH, SCHOOL OR OFFICE FOR TWO WEEKS, THEN PACK WITH VOLUNTEERS IN ONE EVENING.

THE PARTNER

A halfway house or reentry program that hands bags to people as they arrive.

THE COUNT

Tally bags and cans, then send your totals to Outside Eats so we can share your impact.

WHY IT MATTERS

Many people come home to an empty pantry. A bag of spices and a few cans means the first meals are already covered.

THE SHOPPING LIST

What goes in each bag

Hand this list to donors. Store brands are perfect.

6 CANS

- 2 cans black, pinto or kidney beans
- 2 cans chickpeas or lentils
- 2 cans tomatoes, corn or mixed veg

8 SPICES

- Garlic powder
- Cumin
- Chili powder
- Onion powder
- Paprika and oregano
- Pepper and cinnamon

EXTRAS

- Reusable grocery bag
- Manual can opener
- Fresh Start Guide

BUY SMALL

Small jars and store-brand cans keep costs low. Pop-top cans are easiest; if they are not, add a can opener.

HOW TO RUN IT

Four steps, three weeks.

Start with one partner and a goal you can reach.

1

PICK A PARTNER

Ask a halfway house or reentry program how many people arrive each month.

2

COLLECT FOR 2 WEEKS

Set out labeled boxes and hand donors the shopping list.

3

HOST A PACKING NIGHT

One bag per person: spices, 6 cans, a guide and a welcome tag.

4

DELIVER AND COUNT

Drop off the bags, then send your totals to Outside Eats.

START SMALL

Ten full bags delivered beats fifty half-packed ones. Set a goal you can finish, then grow next time.

PACKING NIGHT

Packing checklist

Check each bag before it is tied shut.

- ☐ 8 spices, sealed and labeled.
- ☐ 6 cans, checked for dents and dates.
- ☐ A can opener, if any can is not pop-top.
- ☐ One printed Fresh Start Guide.
- ☐ A "Welcome home. Start here." tag.
- ☐ The bag is counted on the tally sheet.

Bags packed and cans collected:

Partner who received the bags: