TIPS AND TRICKS FOR RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL KOSHER FOOD PANTRY

KOSHER FOOD LIFELINE: A PROGRAM OF THE ORTHODOX UNION
Today’s Agenda

1. Maintain a dignified pantry experience
2. Utilize local Food Banks to increase kosher options
3. Increase food donations directly from manufacturers
A DIGNIFIED EXPERIENCE:
Which Pantry Are You?

CLIENT CHOICE: SUPERMARKET OR KIOSK
CLIENT CHOICE: HOME DELIVERY
PRE-BAGGED: HOME DELIVERY
PRE-BAGGED: CLIENT PICK UP
DRIVE-THRU
OUTDOOR POP-UP
Engaging Your Customers

• How do you interact?
• Who refers clients?
• Do clients wait on a line to enter the pantry or do you offer private appointments?
• How are clients notified of pantry closures?
• How are clients notified if you get a special delivery outside of regular pantry hours?
Users can log in to the online ordering system and place orders.

There are volunteers to assist clients with ordering in the front lobby if not ordered from home.

The orders get printed in the back and volunteers pack the orders in the back.

Client picks up the order.
Ideal Home Deliveries

- Tracking system
- Volunteer “Managers” to oversee routes
- System to communicate with clients: e-mail, text, paper
- Refrigerated/frozen items packaged separately, and box is labelled
UTILIZING LOCAL FOOD BANKS TO INCREASE KOSHER OPTIONS IN YOUR PANTRY
WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR FOOD FROM?

FUNDRAISED DOLLARS:
• PURCHASING THROUGH LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS
• PURCHASING THROUGH LOCAL STORES AND MARKETS

GOVERNMENT GRANTS:
• FOOD BANKS
BENEFITS OF A KOSHER ONLY FOOD PANTRY

- Clients trust non-labeled kosher products from Food Bank
- You can ask for increased kosher products from Food Bank
- Everyone that comes to the pantry receives kosher food regardless of religion
- Jewish law to provide kosher food
- All clients will trust that all the food is kosher in the pantry and all people can shop there
How to Advocate for Kosher Food

How does your Food Bank notify you of available products?

POLL

Holidays Food Items: Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Passover, High Holidays

Produce

Specialty Foods: Passover and Jewish brands (Kedem grape juice)
No Two Food Banks are the Same

Kosher and Non kosher Available Products
Meetings with Lay Leaders and Government Officials
Explain Dietary Restrictions of Your Community
Look at the Meal Gap
Food Bank Guidelines

- All Food Banks follow MY PLATE
- Nutritional Requirements
- As a kosher pantry, most if not all the grains, fruits and vegetables can be received from Food Bank at no/minimal cost to your agency.
Save your money for the following food items that are not available from free sources:

- Kosher Poultry
- Kosher Meat
- Cholov Yisroel Milk
- Kosher Cheese
- Kedem Grape Juice
- Specialty Holiday Products
- Passover Foods
Food Donations From Manufacturers
Supermarkets

- Ask for their “kosher aisle” donations
- Inquire which days they go through near date products or sealed returns
- Offer to publicize the donations
- Utilize all donor relationships with manufacturers: Kids Can Do in Delmar, NY
KIDS CAN DO: A “CAN-PAIGN”

Shalom Kosher Food Pantry in Delmar, NY

Ongoing Donations vs One Time Donations

- Each are important: holiday donations vs. regular
- Local retailers
- Major manufacturers
- Look at company websites
- Ensure product is sealed when received
TRANSPORTATION

- Have a plan for when donations are available
- Utilize your volunteers
- Must have a way to contact clients for when donations come in
A FINAL WORD

THE BUSINESS OF CHESSED

YOU KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY BEST

SERVE YOUR CLIENTS WITH DIGNITY

GET THEM THE FOOD THEY NEED THAT IS NUTRITIOUS AND KOSHER

LEVERAGE YOUR FUNDRAISED DOLLARS BY TAKING AVAILABLE KOSHER FOOD FROM FOOD BANK

USE THE STRENGTHS OF YOUR VOLUNTEERS

FOOD FOR “LIFE”
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