

# Block Captain Tool Kit

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a Block Captain (BC)?**

A Block Captain (BC) is someone (or a group of people) who is responsible for running a mini food drive once per month on a small scale (about the size of a city block) in their neighborhood, or business. MOM assigns the BC a specific week per month in which they collect food and other commodity items from their neighbors. After the drive they bring the collected items to the MOM Distribution Center. BC's decide what day and time they will pick up the items from their neighbors (we recommend that this day be the same each month, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, etc.), and schedule with MOM a regular delivery day and time.

### **Who can be a Block Captain?**

A block captain can be a family, a group of families who live on the same block, a single person, an older person, a younger person. It can be anyone! This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to volunteer, but would like the flexibility of doing it on their own time and still be supported by MOM staff.

### **How will MOM help?**

Each month a MOM staff will assemble a flyer that will be downloaded from our website (<http://www.mompop.org/BlockCaptain.php>). This flyer will include a space for the BC to write in their MOM Food Pantry Day and the time when they will be picking up the items from their neighbors. It will also have a list of our top needs for the month and might also include information on volunteer opportunities or other events going on at MOM.

### **What happens the week before the MOM Food Pantry Day?**

The BC will copy the flyer and hand it out to their neighbors about a week before their MOM Food Pantry Day, which will give neighbors a chance to purchase or find items for the drive. BC's might also want to make a sign to put in their yard that says "MOM Food Pantry Day is THIS (fill in day of week)", or some other creative way to remind their neighbors about the drive.

### **How does a MOM Food Pantry Day work?**

On the day of the drive during the hours determined by the BC and written on the flyer, the BC will walk with a wagon or cart (or drive) from house to house, and pick-up the items. The BC will then deliver the items to the DC at the time arranged.

### **What if I am going to be on vacation?**

BC's may want to find another family that would be interested in being their back-up. If they can't find anyone who is interested, BC's can skip the month and encourage families to donate directly to MOM.

### **How do I determine who is on my block?**

Many suburbs today don't have defined blocks as many neighborhoods had in the past! BC's can determine how much area they would like to cover. We just ask that they let us know by giving us the house numbers and streets for which they plan to include. We will plot the information on a map so that we can make sure that no one is covering the same area!

### **How do I get involved?**

Contact Carole, MOM's volunteer coordinator, if you are interested in this opportunity or have more questions. She can be reached at [carole@mompop.org](mailto:carole@mompop.org), or 826-3405.