Give Smart: Donating to the Kitchen at the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

The kitchen, like other programs at the Shelter, is dependent on donations, both from individuals and from community agencies, to provide for the needs of the homeless men and women we serve. Donations large and small are always appreciated, but in order to maximize the usefulness of your gifts, we suggest keeping the following in mind:

- We serve a minimum of 160 people most evenings during the winter season, and as many as 200 each morning at breakfast
- All food is prepared onsite by our small kitchen staff and our dedicated volunteers
- Meals must be prepared using what we have on hand in a relatively short period of time, usually 1-2 hours
- The Shelter has limited food storage space but requires large quantities of food in order to provide the 2500-plus meals we serve during a typical week in the winter
- We are a commercial kitchen and therefore can only accept prepared foods made in a commercial kitchen and packaged food that is unopened and undamaged

With these realities in mind, we have found that the most useful donations are those that will be used immediately or that can easily be added to the stock we typically have on hand with relatively little prep. Below is a Shelter kitchen "most wanted" list.

- Pancake mix—"just add water"
- Pancake syrup
- COFFEE
- Flats or cases of the same type of soup (ex: 12 cans of chicken noodle)
- Flats or cases of the same type of vegetable or fruit
- Salad greens
- Canned tuna
- Oil (vegetable, canola or olive)
- Butter or margarine
- Black pepper
- Table salt