



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2025/2026

First Step to Service Program

January 2025:

Walking with the Poor & Vulnerable

"Poverty Awareness"

ALL GRADES

OPTIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

Protein Power Collection Challenge

Objective: Put poverty awareness into action by collecting protein-rich non-perishable foods, which are always in high demand at our agency food pantries.

What to Collect:

- Canned chicken, tuna, salmon, or other meats
- Canned beans and legumes (black beans, chickpeas, lentils, etc.)
- Nut butters (peanut butter, almond butter, sun-butter)

How It Works:

Students compete to collect the most protein-based items during Poverty Awareness Month (January). One winner will be selected based on the total number of individually packaged goods.

1 can of tuna = 1 point; an 8 pack of tuna = 8 points; etc.

Students should track their donations on a leaderboard in a common area of classroom or school building, or via digital means, and will be required to complete an entry form.

- **Creative Collection Methods:** Students may earn bonus points for coming up with unique or creative ways to collect protein-rich items, such as themed donation days, classroom challenges, or social media awareness campaigns within school rules.
- **Educational Outreach:** Students may earn bonus points for spreading awareness about food insecurity or Poverty Awareness Month in their school or community—for example, creating posters, making short presentations, or sharing facts with peers.
- **Teamwork and Leadership:** Students may earn bonus points for demonstrating exceptional collaboration, encouraging peers to participate, or taking a leadership role in organizing and motivating their group during the collection drive.

HOW TO ENTER

One student with the highest total of items collected - including any bonus points awarded - will win a \$500.00 Gift Card AND a pizza or ice cream party, for their classroom. At the conclusion of the collection period, all donated goods must be tallied here, signed and approved by a parent, teacher, or guardian, and the collected goods **MUST** be delivered to a Catholic Charities Agency nearest you! All locations will accept drop offs. Use entry form.



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This program is made possible through grant funding issued by The Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, USCCB. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli @ 330-744-8451 or jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.