



Your World Kitchen®

## **Celebrate National Mac & Cheese Day by Donating a Box to Support Local Hunger Prevention**

### ***Noodles & Company to Host Mac & Cheese Drive, Give a Box Get a Bowl***

On Tuesday, July 14 [Noodles & Company](#), serving classic noodle and pasta dishes from around the world, will celebrate National Mac & Cheese day by inviting guests to donate a box of mac & cheese to any of its five restaurants located in Massachusetts and New Hampshire which will then be donated to local food pantries to help combat hunger. As a thank you for their donation, Noodles & Company will give guests a certificate for a free small bowl of their freshly made Wisconsin Mac & Cheese.

According to Feeding America, more than 21 million children nationally receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs which research has shown provides these children with up to 50 percent of their daily total calories. However, as public schools close for the summer months many of those children will lose access to those meals.

Loved by kids (and adults alike), mac & cheese is a quintessential American dish yet for many local families it is a necessary staple providing much needed nutrition.

- 34.9 percent of children in Suffolk + Worcester County are food insecure.
- 65 percent of food insecure children in Suffolk and Worcester County are not eligible for federal food assistance and therefore rely on the assistance of local food pantries.
- 14.9 percent of children in Hillsborough County are food insecure.
- 46 percent of food insecure children in Hillsborough County are not eligible for federal food assistance and therefore rely on the assistance of local food pantries.

Noodles & Company is focused on the communities it serves and wants to bring attention to this issue locally. The events are being held at their locations in Burlington, Franklin, Shrewsbury, Westwood and Nashua, NH.

“As a community we need to come together to find ways to help our neighbors who are struggling especially when it comes to children not having enough to

eat," said Mike Hamra, CEO and President of Hamra Enterprises, a Noodles & Company franchisee. "We encourage residents to come out to our restaurants during this special day and donate a box of mac & cheese to help combat hunger and enjoy a bowl on us as a thank you."

The following locations will collect items to benefit the [Burlington Community Food Pantry](#), St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, [Worcester County Food Bank](#), Westwood Food Pantry, and the [Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter](#):

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Burlington, MA</b> | 90 Middlesex Turnpike       |
| <b>Franklin, MA</b>   | 648 Old West Central Street |
| <b>Shrewsbury, MA</b> | 50 Boston Turnpike          |
| <b>Westwood, MA</b>   | 125 University Avenue       |
| <b>Nashua, NH</b>     | 219 Daniel Webster Highway  |

Along with a box of mac & cheese, guests can also donate non-perishable items and/or toiletries including soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, which are in high demand at the shelters. For additional details please visit:

<http://hamraenterprises.com/noodlesmacday/>

### **About Noodles & Company**

Founded in 1995, Noodles & Company is a fast-casual restaurant chain that serves classic noodle and pasta dishes from around the world. Known as *Your World Kitchen*, Noodles & Company's globally inspired menu consists of more than 25 fresh, customizable noodle bowls, salads, soups and sandwiches that are prepared quickly using quality ingredients. From healthy to indulgent, spicy to comforting, the menu provides favorites for everyone from kids to adults. Popular dishes include the Med Salad with grilled chicken, spicy Indonesian Peanut Sauté and creamy Wisconsin Mac & Cheese.

### **About Hamra Enterprises**

[Hamra Enterprises](#) is a franchisee of Noodles & Company with three restaurants in Massachusetts and one in Nashua, New Hampshire. It is a dynamic organization owned and founded in 1975 by the Hamra family. The company's headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri and includes six companies with over 3,500 employees in five states; Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire and Texas. Hamra Enterprises is committed to providing the highest quality products and services within the hospitality industry, creating exceptional experiences for people and communities by engaging each of its restaurant neighborhoods through community service, fundraising, and other philanthropic partnerships such as Boston Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish of Illinois, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

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