



Dear HS Athletic Directors:

We are writing with the hope that your school and the New Hampshire HS football community will embrace the 5th annual “*New Hampshire Tackles Hunger*” campaign.

WMUR is partnering with the NH Food Bank and the NHIAA for this worthwhile project. If you would like to participate, please pick a home game that will be used as a collection sight for food and cash donations. WMUR will send you a flier/fact sheet that can be posted around your school. We also encourage you to get other organizations around the school involved, such as the booster club/band/cheerleaders/other sports teams.

The primary weekend for NH Tackles will be September 22nd and 23rd. If you have a prominent home or away game that weekend, we would love to have you participate. Or, if you have a road game and don't feel that would be a good weekend, please pick another date to participate and we will help to promote it for you.

Here are a few details to remember about this year's campaign:

- All food collected at the games will stay in your local community to help your neighbors with much needed assistance.
- 10% of men, women and children are food insecure in NH.
- A food pantry that serves your community will be in touch to work out the details of the food collection.

The greatest current challenge faced by the NH Food Bank is meeting the continued, increasing need for hunger relief distribution at a time when availability of donated product is in decline. Over the past six years, the NH Food Bank has experienced declines in donated food from major food wholesalers, retailers, and producers due to tighter inventory controls, less stock on hand, reduced revenue, smaller margins, and the closing of 12 significant partner stores. At the same time, the need for food resources has continued to increase.

Over the past four years, thanks to each of you, NH Tackles Hunger has been a great success, collecting 178,600 pounds of food for distribution. All of the donations that are collected at your game will stay in your community.

There are 58 high schools playing Varsity football this year; just imagine the impact for NH families in need!

Thank you for any level of participation that you can offer. Please contact Jamie Staton with any questions you may have at 641-9007.

Sincerely,

Jamie Staton
Sports Director
WMUR-TV Sports

Nancy Mellitt
Director of Development
New Hampshire Food Bank

Jeffrey T. Collins
Executive Director
New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Assn.