



CIACO Thanksgiving Baskets of Love 2025

For the past 25 years, our generous CIACO members, families and friends have come together to give back to our community by putting together the CIACO Thanksgiving Baskets Of Love. For the past several years, we have picked up and consolidated two 53ft truckloads of food at our warehouse and then assembled and distributed 700 Baskets containing 40 individual food items (including a frozen turkey)! This is more than enough food to feed more than 7,000 people in need. This year, the need is even greater and we are very excited to announce that we will increase the total number of baskets from 700 to 800! The additional 100 baskets will feed more than 1000 people in need. This means that we will help feed more than 8,000 people this Thanksgiving!

On Sunday November 23, 2025 we will come together once again to assemble the 800 baskets (60 lb cartons of food) at the Greco Warehouse located at 2575 ENTERPRISE CIRCLE, WEST CHICAGO IL, 60185. To ensure a successful outcome, our Baskets committee has already begun conducting an extensive outreach to our generous food manufacturers, retailers & distributors that have helped us in the past as well as outreach to new donors. There are a few ways you can get involved. First, we could certainly use your help with outreach to your own personal network helping the committee secure applicable food items. Second, consider joining our committee to further help with outreach, set up day and day of activities.

- Saturday, November 22, 2025 @ 9:30 am, is Set Up Day. (Receiving Pallets & Setting up Conveyor's)
- Sunday, November 23 2025 is the Big Day! Volunteer check-in begins at 8:30 am with a 9:30 am start up. We will need help with assembly line supervision, Assembly line inventory control, garbage removal, breakdown and clean up help.

Please feel free to reach out to committee chair's Dan Mastropieri at 630-333-8744 (dmastro@kochlogistics.com) and or Mark Saverino at 630-744-5223 (markdsav@gmail.com) with any questions, donations or follow-up calls you need us to make.

For any monetary donations, please coordinate and turn in directly to committee member Jack Maggiore srjamaggiore@comcast.net

God Bless everyone as we come together to make this happen.

Feel free to copy and paste the below "ask letter" into the body of your personal email and send to your applicable contacts.

Subject: Partner with CIACO to Feed 800 families this Thanksgiving.

Dear [Name/Company],

I am writing on behalf of the **Chicago Italian American Charitable Organization (CIACO)**. All year long, our mission is simple yet powerful: **to help those who are less fortunate in our community.**

As we approach the fall season, our focus turns to providing Thanksgiving meals for families in need through our **Annual Thanksgiving “Baskets of Love” Program**. This year’s event will take place on **Sunday, November 23, 2025**—the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

What began in 1995 with just 50 turkeys donated by our members has grown into one of Chicagoland’s largest community Thanksgiving food drives. By 2008, we were assembling 350 baskets; by 2009, 500 baskets. This year, thanks to the continued generosity of donors like you, we aim to assemble and distribute **more than 800 baskets—feeding over 8,000 individuals in need.**

To make this possible, we are seeking donations of the following items (in quantities of 800 each):

- Frozen turkeys
- Gravy mix, chicken broth, stuffing, breadcrumbs
- Pasta, pasta sauce, canned goods (cranberries, corn, vegetables, fruit, etc.)
- Mac & cheese, pudding mix, cornbread, cookies
- Pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter
- 5-lb bags of onions, 8-lb bags of potatoes
- Nuts, sugar, ketchup, and other pantry staples

Your generosity will help us create a fully stocked assembly line that ensures no registered family leaves empty-handed this Thanksgiving.

Enclosed you will find our **event flyer** and **501(c)(3) documentation** for your reference. We would be deeply grateful for any support you can provide to help us continue this tradition of giving and hope.

On behalf of CIACO and the many families we serve, **thank you for your consideration and compassion.**

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

Chicago Italian American Charitable Organization (CIACO)