

## 18<sup>th</sup> National Food Collection Day

**Saturday 29 November 2014**

**WE INVITE YOU ALL TO DONATE**

oil – baby food – rice – biscuits – canned sauces and tomatoes

**TO HELP**

**8,898** charitable facilities assisting **1,950,000** poor people in Italy

On **Saturday 29 November**, the eighteenth edition of the **National Food Collection Day** (GNCA) will be held throughout Italy. Over **135,000 volunteers** from Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus present in over **11,000 supermarkets** will invite you to donate shelf-stable food, which will be distributed to **8,898 charitable facilities** (soup kitchens, care facilities for children, solidarity stalls, homeless shelters, etc.) that help over **1,950,000 poor people**.

**One in ten Italians suffer from food poverty** and in just seven years absolute poverty has almost tripled from 2.4 million people in 2007 to **6 million in poverty** in 2013, people who are unable to meet the minimum costs of food, shelter and clothing.

Hunger in Italy is an emergency that cannot be ignored. As Pope Francis has said many times, **everyone has the right to adequate food**; it is a basic need. And we can all do something to help.

For this reason, **Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus** renews its invitation to participate in the National Food Collection Day. Donations of food received on this day will join the supplies that the Food Bank Network gathers on a daily basis, fighting against food waste with over **62,000 tonnes distributed last year**.

The reasons underlying this charitable gesture are described in the “ten lines” taken from the speech delivered by Pope Francis at the launch of the campaign against world hunger by Caritas Internationalis, intended to encourage dialogue with all those participating in the National Food Collection Day.

*“I invite you to find room in your hearts for this emergency, respecting the God-given right for everyone to have access to adequate food. Let us share what we have in Christian charity with those who are forced to face many obstacles just to meet this primary need. I invite us all to stop thinking that our daily actions have no impact on the lives of those who personally suffer from hunger.”*

This important event, sponsored by the Presidency of the Republic and Expo Milano 2015, is also made possible thanks to the collaboration of the Italian Army and the participation of tens of thousands of volunteers belonging to the **National Alpine Association, Società San Vincenzo De Paoli, Compagnia delle Opere Sociali** and the **Italian Districts of Rotary International**.

Special thanks go to:

Main sponsors **Intesa Sanpaolo** and **Banca Prossima** (Intesa Sanpaolo entirely dedicated to the voluntary sector) - sponsor **UnipolSai Assicurazioni**- media partner **Sky** - technical sponsor **Poste Italiane**.

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