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# Cans combat hunger

## South Florida malls will host 'Canstruction' events, showing art to help stock food banks

**BY LISA J. HURIASH**  
Staff writer

What can thousands of cans of beans, sardines and tuna do?

Organizers of this year's "Canstruction" event are hoping they can be used to make a majestic display of art, and raise awareness for the hungry of South Florida.

Two Canstruction events are coming to South Florida: Thursday through Sunday at Westfield Broward mall, 8000 W. Broward Blvd. in Plantation, and Monday through June 19 at The Gardens Mall, 3101 PGA Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens.

Canstruction Inc. — founded in 1992 to join the design, engineering and construction industries in charitable fundraising for feeding programs — organizes events around the world; a contest in Hong Kong

wraps up next week, for example. This will be the second annual event in Broward County.

This year's Broward theme: "Best of Florida." Eight businesses — each assisted by a professional architect — will use a minimum of 3,000 cans of food they have purchased to make creations, such as "The Mojito — Florida's Favorite Cocktail," "Mickey's Day at the Beach" and "Cinderella Castle at Disney World."

The projects will be taken down on the last day and distributed to local food banks including: HOPE Outreach Center, Jubilee Center of South Broward, LifeNet4Families, Pantry of Broward and Love Thy Neighbor.

The sculpture art in Palm Beach County will be donated to the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

"We're so excited," said Beth Azor, co-chairwoman of the Broward Canstruction and a volunteer with HOPE Outreach Center, a social service and feeding organization in Davie. "Last year our food [in the pantry]

ran out by the end of July; We want another event where the food doesn't run out."

The purpose of the event: call attention to hunger in South Florida during the summer.

Last year, the Canstruction event donated more than 25,000 cans of food. Azor said they are also seeking public donations of food with protein: meat soups, beef stew, pasta and tomato sauce, black beans, peanut butter and jelly and cans of chicken and tuna, as well as rice and boxed milk.

Construction of the sculptures start Thursday with the public welcome to watch. The public can vote Thursday evening, Friday and much of Saturday for a team to receive a trophy for the Public's Choice Award.

"It creates a great awareness," Martha Ann Kneiss, spokeswoman for the Palm Beach County Food Bank which is hosting its 4th annual event. "Hunger exists in our county."

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