

Share of McLean Food Produce Gatherers

In addition to stocking our pantry with non-perishable items, Share also provides fresh produce to our clients—one of the most requested and appreciated items. Fresh fruits and vegetables not only supplement the shelf-stable foods we distribute but also help families prepare healthier meals.

Our dedicated Produce Gatherers make this possible by shopping for fresh items, collecting donations from local farmers markets, or coordinating with partner nonprofit organizations that share their surplus produce.

Produce Gatherer Duties

Time requirements:

- DMV Justice Pickup – approximately 2 hours
- Restaurant Depot Shopping – approximately 3 hours
- McLean Farmer's Market Pickup – approximately 1.5 hours

Role:

Each week, Gatherers pick up fresh produce from our suppliers and deliver it to Share prior to openings. Produce is gathered on Tuesdays year-round and additionally on Fridays in the summer. Because the produce is gathered in bulk, we suggest two Gatherers team up each week to help carry the heavy boxes and bags.

Duties:

- Gatherers sign up to collect and deliver produce using the Produce Team Signup Genius.
- The Produce Coordinator will let the scheduled Gatherer know whether to pick up at DMV Justice or to shop at Restaurant Depot for Tuesday pickups.
- Gatherers will either pick up at DMV Justice at the scheduled time Tuesday morning or shop at Restaurant Depot Monday or Tuesday.
- Produce items are generally packaged in 25-50 lb. bags or boxes. Some items, such as melons, may be loose; bins are available at Share for repacking and for loose items.
- After pick-up, Gatherers will deliver the produce to the Share pantry at McLean Baptist Church.

- Carts and wagons are available to move items from the parking lot into the building.
- On many Tuesdays, teen volunteers are at Share between **3:30–4:30 pm** and can assist with unloading. Coordinate with the **Teen Volunteer mentor** to arrange assistance.

Pick-Up Procedures

DMV Justice

Location: Fairfax Circle Church, 3110 Chichester Ln, Fairfax (at the intersection of Chichester Rd and Route 50)

Time: 9:30-10:30. Coordinator will provide specific time if available

- Pick up Share's produce in the church's back parking lot. Park and notify a volunteer that you are here for Share's donation. They will show you where our boxes/bags are.
- Pull your vehicle up to the door and load the produce.
- Don't forget to thank them!

Occasionally, DMV Justice is unable to provide produce:

- When Monday is a federal holiday, they receive food shipments too late for the Wednesday Share opening.
- Sometimes, they do not have enough produce to distribute to all the organizations they supply. As Share has other resources available, we do not gather from DMV Justice in these instances so other groups can receive more.

Restaurant Depot

Location: 4420 Brookfield Corporate Drive, Chantilly

Time: Monday or Tuesday

- If there is no produce from DMV Justice, Gatherers purchase produce at Restaurant Depot using a personal credit card (reimbursed by the Share Treasurer).
- Before entering the warehouse, grab a large cart from outside.
- Once inside, present your member card at the front desk (card will be provided).
- Commonly purchased items include potatoes, onions, carrots, green peppers, jalapeno peppers, garlic, and tomatoes. Other popular items are lemons, limes, apples, and oranges.

- Gatherers may deliver produce to Share any time after purchase
 - If teen unloading assistance is desired, schedule with the **Teen Volunteer Coordinator** for Tuesday after school.
 - If any items need refrigeration, deliver at least those items as soon as possible after purchase.

McLean Farmers Market (F.J. Medina & Sons Booth)

Time: 12:00 noon (end of the market), Fridays

Location: McLean Farmers Market, Lewinsville Park

Season: Early May through September

- At noon, or slightly before, go to the F.J. Medina & Sons booth at the McLean Farmers Market.
- Bring bins to transport the loose produce (available at Share).
- Record the items and weight of donated produce and deliver to the Produce Coordinator.
- Don't forget to thank them!

Timeline:

Sunday or Monday:

- Coordinator will determine if DMV Justice has free produce for Share on Tuesday.
- Coordinator will notify Gatherer of pick-up location

Monday or Tuesday:

- Gatherer will purchase produce at Restaurant Depot, if necessary.
- Gatherer will coordinate unloading assistance, if desired

Tuesday:

Gatherer delivers produce to Share pantry by 3:30.

Friday (May-Sept ONLY):

- Gatherer picks up produce from McLean Farmer's Market
- Gatherer sends record of donated produce, including weight, to Produce Coordinator