



SHARE of McLEAN

Happy Fall 2024

Spotlight

Our Younger Volunteers

We know that it “takes a village” to allow Share to serve its many clients and their varying needs. Below we acknowledge and THANK our younger volunteers and contributors. We are so very fortunate to live in a community that inspires its youth to help others. You should be so proud of yourselves!

Many of our youth supporters focused on a big part of Share’s mission – helping to fill the gap in our clients’ grocery budgets. Food insecurity is everywhere, and we are grateful for the following young people for their efforts to combat this problem.

A huge shoutout to the *McLean Little League 11-Year-Old Softball All-Star Team!* Thank you for helping our volunteers by shopping for food items, delivering them to Share, and restocking the pantry shelves. We love seeing the next generation so engaged in their community!



SHARE is now receiving donations of whole fruit from **FruitFull**, a student-led organization founded by *Langley High School* junior *Elliot P.* to rescue uneaten whole fruit from school cafeterias. Since he began this effort last April, Elliot has collected more than 2,500 apples, bananas, oranges, pears, and other fruit for SHARE. FruitFull also recently launched a chapter at *Cooper Middle School*, led by eighth-grader *Nora T.* In just its first week, Cooper students donated 97 pieces of fruit. Elliot hopes to launch more chapters of FruitFull throughout Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. Students interested in starting a chapter at their school can contact Elliot at elliott11137@gmail.com or

through his website, www.fruit-full.org. New chapters will receive a "starter kit" that includes FruitFull-branded collection bags, collection bins, and model organizational documents. Way to go, Elliot and Nora! Thank you for all your efforts.

There are many ways to make a difference, and our youth donated their time and creativity in other ways as well. Read on to see how our future leaders are helping their community ...



Pictured: Sophia, with two other Share volunteers, Connor and Zach, receiving their Teen Character awards.

It takes over 1,000 hours each month to keep Share running smoothly, and we couldn't do it without the dedication and commitment of our teen volunteers. Meet *Sophia*, one of our most active volunteers in the food and clothing pantry. She has volunteered at Share since 2019 and is there almost every Saturday and most weekdays after school to help stock shelves, guide clients, and assist the volunteer team leads with activities to ensure everything runs efficiently on pantry opening days. We were thrilled to learn that Sophia received an award from the *McLean Citizens Association* for her service to the community. Congratulations to Sophia and her entire family for their support!

High school siblings, *Rishika and Amrit*, raised funds on behalf of Ekam Virginia to purchase adult diapers, which they donated to Share of McLean. We truly appreciate your dedication to the community and your compassion for providing dignity to those in need.



Technology has become a "must have" in today's learning and working environment, but as we all know, its cost can make it out of reach for some families. Not having access to technology can exacerbate the income and education gap in this country, but fortunately for our community, Share was able to recruit technology lab volunteers *Thomas, Andrew, Grant, Allen, and Nehru*. Thanks to their efforts, Share families now have

refurbished laptops. We sincerely appreciate all our teen volunteers for achieving impressive milestones—their hard work has truly paid off!

Eagle Scout Wesley Beeland, his fellow scouts, and scout leaders built two benches near Share's upper parking lot, providing a comfortable spot for our seniors to sit while waiting for the bus. Despite the almost 100-degree heat, they also built a sturdy shelving unit for water bottles in the boiler room. Their hard work and dedication are truly appreciated, making life a bit easier for our clients and volunteers.



Langley High School students Monica and Simon volunteered at Share every Tuesday morning during the 2023-24 school year, with assistance from Franny! Thank you for your service. We are excited to have another team of Langley students assisting us this year.

Pierce from Cooper Middle School organized an incredible

community food and clothing drive which gathered over *300 pounds of canned food* and *more than 12 bags of pre-sorted clothing* for girls, boys, men, and women. We especially appreciate donations during the summer months when our shelves are typically emptier, so your timing could not have been better.



The LMS Give organization from Longfellow Middle School organized their first food drive last year that yielded more than 650 items from Share's Most Needed List! They introduced an enticing incentive--a celebratory party to the class contributing the highest number of canned or boxed food items. Over a two-week period, continuous updates on collection statistics were broadcasted over the loudspeaker to maintain student motivation. Warm appreciation goes to the leaders of LMS Give, their teachers, and all the participating students and parents for their inspiring dedication.

A big thanks to *two students at Rocky Run Middle School* for their initiative last spring in purchasing and assembling dozens of Food Power Packs. These packs will provide extra nourishment for children who do not have access to school lunch programs over the weekend.



Rounding out our roll call of young heroes, we want to give a shout out to *last years' kindergartners at The Potomac School* for once again sharing their bounty of tomato plants and beautiful handmade posters with the clients of Share of McLean. Also, *the 4th graders* raised over \$100 through their "store" and generously donated the money to Share. We love seeing how the kids are developing a sense of purpose in their community and discovering how a little kindness can go a long way

Upcoming Coat (and hats and mittens and scarves) Drive!

Ok, so you're feeling inspired by all those wonderful kids, and wondering how you can help out? Contribute to our winter Coat Drive!! Starting in mid-October, Share will begin distributing coats to registered clients. If you have gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, or scarves for adults or children, we'd greatly appreciate your donations! In the past, talented volunteers have also knitted hats, gloves, and scarves! Please drop them off at the storage sheds outside the main entrance of Share, and thank you for helping keep our community warm this winter!

Taking a Bite out of Food Insecurity



A big thanks to all the individuals and organizations who dropped off garden vegetables at Share over the summer! Fresh produce is one of the most highly requested items by our clients, so we greatly appreciate your hard work over the summer in providing us with such a bounty.

Also thank you to **PublicRelay** for your generous donation of 48 Power Packs! These meal supplements greatly benefited children during the summer holidays when free or reduced meals were not always available. We appreciate your partnership with Share of McLean and look forward to many more years of collaboration to help our community.

Share Helps Kids Get Back to School with Important Supplies

This past summer, Share again collected, packaged, and distributed badly needed new school supplies to our clients' children. Many children can feel embarrassed when they are unable to bring the necessary supplies to school, or only have used materials. Our generous volunteers and organizations came together to make this event a success. Our most sincere thank you to donors such as:

- The wonderful ladies of the **Idylwood Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** who made a very generous donation of school items.
- **Womenade**, a fantastic local Women's Giving Circle in Arlington, which selected Share as one of its beneficiaries. Per their direction and grant, Share decided to deliver "most needed" personal care items to school children through our annual Back to School program.
- **Clearwater Analytics** for their support in rounding out Share's school supply drive this year! The highlighter and index card packs were a perfect addition to the supply kits for our 7th-12th grade and college students.

We are grateful to these and other organizations that increased the resources we can give to children as they start their new school year!

The 2024 **Back to School (BTS) Program** kicked off on August 7th and concluded August 17th just before the start of the school year. Over 270 of Share's student clients from kindergarten through college received a supply pack with grade appropriate supplies, a toiletry kit with new socks and dental products, and a gift card to purchase any other needed items. In addition, all elementary school students received a pair of new headphones and early reader books, while middle and high school students chose a new water bottle. The BTS team would like to thank the donors, volunteers, and McLean Baptist church for their support of this incredible program.



We Couldn't be Successful Without Partnerships with our Faith Communities

Share of McLean expresses sincere gratitude for the donations received at the *7th Annual Interfaith Concert and Volunteer Fair*, held at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 5th. The theme of the event was 'Building Bridges Through Music,' and it showcased singers representing various faith traditions in the McLean area. Entrance fees were collected in the form of donations from Share's most needed food list. Attendees also had the opportunity to engage with local service organizations at a volunteer fair.

We are truly grateful to *McLean Baptist Church* for their decades of support of Share including dedicated space for our food and clothing pantry, as well as hosting our winter coat drives, registration activities, Back-to-School events, and Holiday distribution programs.

So Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors!

We're excited to announce that Share of McLean received a generous grant from The [Starbucks](#) Foundation! The Starbucks Foundation Neighborhood Grants program supports local organizations and encourages Starbucks employees to get involved in volunteer efforts. A big thank you to the Starbucks team member(s) who nominated us for this grant. We look forward to making a positive impact in our community together! [#NeighborhoodGrants](#), [#TheStarbucksFoundation](#)



We also are so grateful for our local (22101) National Association of Letter Carriers and the McLean community for collecting and delivering *over 50 mail crates of food* during Stamp Out Hunger on the 2nd Saturday in May. Your hard work to fight hunger in our community is greatly appreciated! [#stampouthunger2024](#)



We love creativity! Every year, Dr. Hinkle, from [Hinkle Dentistry](#), organizes a volunteer event for his staff. This year he came up with a fantastic idea to rally his team in support of Share of McLean. He gave each person \$50 and a list of Share's most needed food items. Their challenge? Purchase the most items at Giant Food within 20 minutes and get as close to the \$50 mark without going over. After the shopping spree, there was a "Price is Right" style challenge where the team could shift items between carts based on their answers, with a prize awaiting the winner. Not only was it a competitive and fun team-building exercise, but it also directly benefited our community with the team donating \$300 in food items. A huge thank you to Dr. Hinkle and his wonderful staff for their generous donation and ongoing support, including their past contributions of necessary dental supplies.

Our long-standing partner, [Keller Williams Realty](#) in McLean/Great Falls spearheaded a food drive at Giant McLean on May 9th! This project to tackle food insecurity and economic challenges in our community was a huge success. They filled the Share truck with items from our most-needed list. Your generosity and support makes a meaningful difference!



Featuring Nicki Watts and Our Remodeled Food Pantry



Share's food pantry just got a fantastic makeover! Nicki Watts, whose client-focused drive can be seen in the final result, spearheaded the remodel. Thanks to her practical input and the construction help of Steven Ko of Polytech and his crew, Share increased its shelf space by 30% and doubled its

storage. New, deeper shelves and enclosed cabinets for storage make things easier for our clients and the dedicated volunteers who tirelessly assist them.

Share's client base has grown substantially, and often those arriving later in the day at times found the shelves looking picked over. The added space should allow the last customer to have a similar experience to those arriving first, and decrease the stress for those waiting in line to enter.

Nicki stated that clients "have been very complimentary as have the volunteers working in the food room." She also added that air conditioning will be added to the basement rooms as well, making the overall experience more comfortable during the summer months. Share's remodel was made possible thanks to a recent bequest.

This project was undertaken in addition to the myriad other services Nicki provides to Share's clients. She keeps the food pantry running smoothly, and coordinates the many volunteers who work behind the scenes to help our community. There is little going on at Share that hasn't benefited from Nicki's insights and dedication.

Upcoming Events

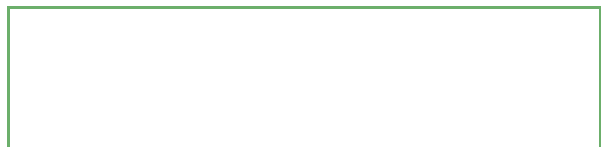
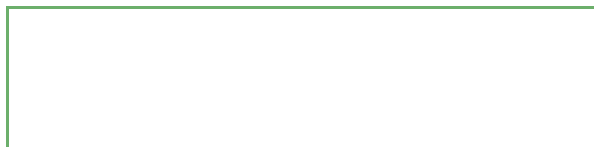
The Boy Scout's annual Scouting for Food drive will be Saturday November 9. McLean residents can simply put food donations out on their porches and Scouts will be collecting food in neighborhoods to deliver to Share. This is the largest Food Drive we have each year, typically providing enough food to get us through 2-3 months. Thank you to our local Scouts for all you do to make this happen each year!

While the winter holidays may seem far away, please plan to add a Share client to your shopping list! *The Share Holiday Tree* will be available at the Giant Food in McLean from November 30 to January 2. It's so easy!! Just choose an envelope from the tree, fulfill the request with a nearby gift card, have the cashier activate it, and bring the card to the Giant customer service desk. Giant will then collect the cards and send them to Share.

Holiday distribution will take place during Share openings from Nov 16 through Dec 18 in the Youth Hall. Regular clients will receive a gift and a gift card to support their holiday needs. We are looking for adult groups to **sponsor treat tables** during distribution days by providing 25-50 individually wrapped baked goods, juice, and 2 adult volunteers from 8:45am -12:00pm on the selected day. If you are interested, please sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F44ABA82BA31-51639572-holiday#/>

Get Involved

Food and Clothing Pantry





Food Pantry Needs

The pantry is our most visible program. Each registered neighbor may visit the pantry twice a month and choose the food and clothing they need. This service relies on community members' food drives and independent donations as the pantry goes through **over 900 bags of groceries a month!**

If you would like to donate to the food and clothing pantry, please see the list of our most needed items on the right. Donations can be dropped off in person during regular pantry hours on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, preferably between 11:00 – 12:00 when the pantry is less busy, or placed in the outside storage bins located at Share's main entrance, Door #8, 1367 Chain Bridge Road.

**** Please: no glass, no over-sized items, and no expired items****

Low or no sodium items preferred



Food and Clothing Pantry *Most Needed Items* currently:

(For the most up-to-date list please visit this [link](#)).

Canned fruit Canned vegetables (corn, carrots, mixed)
Canned or dried beans (chickpea, pinto, kidney)
Canned tuna and chicken
Canned tomato products (diced, sauce)
Pasta Sauce (cans or plastic jars)
Pasta (elbow, penne, spaghetti, etc.)
Macaroni & Cheese Peanut butter (16 oz)
Cereal Oatmeal
Granola bars
Vegetable oil (24 oz, 48 oz)

Diapers (sizes 5 & 6)
Baby wipes Bar soap
Shampoo
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Toothbrushes (individually wrapped) / Toothpaste

Share can accept refrigerated and frozen food such as chicken, fresh produce, yogurt, cheeses, and eggs but only by prior arrangement (contact: sharevolunteers1367@gmail.com)

Other Items

Did you know that you can donate gently used linens to Share, in addition to food and clothing? Sheets and towels are frequently requested by our clients and are in high demand. Please label the sheets with their size (e.g., Twin, Queen) before placing them in the donation bins outside Door #8 at Share's front entrance. Thank you for helping us better serve our community.

Senior Shopping Days

Share opens our food and clothing pantry on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 9:00 to 11:00 am, for two of the senior citizen residences in McLean, as well as neighborhood seniors (55+ years old).

Volunteers Needed!

Looking for a meaningful way to give back AND build team spirit within your organization? Share is looking for volunteers for our "Produce Team"! Help us ensure fresh produce reaches those in need. Training will be provided!

- Produce Coordinators (1-2, work from home)
 - Manage the team schedule
 - Keep in touch with organizations that donate produce
- Produce Team Members (4-8, rotating basis)
 - Pick up fresh produce on Tuesdays and Fridays (summer) or Tuesdays (year-round)
 - Lift, load, and deliver bulk packaged produce (up to 50 lbs) to Share by 3:30 PM

Interested? Contact us at info@shareofmclean.org for details!

Mark your Calendars

- *The Boy Scout's annual Scouting for Food drive will be Saturday November 9. Please place your food items on your doorstep for donation, as Scouts will be coming through neighborhoods to collect them. Check out Share's most needed food items above.*
- *The Share Holiday Tree will be at the Giant Food in McLean from November 30 to January 2. Participating is easy! Simply select an envelope from the tree, visit the cashier to activate the card, and then bring it to the Giant customer service desk.*

More information about Share activities is available on our [calendar](#)

Curious about Share?

Ever wondered how Share began? Or where your donations of food and clothing go? Want a virtual peek inside the rooms where our clients can select food, clothing, and other essentials? Take a look [here](#) for all that information and more!

Donate

Share relies entirely on donations. We do not receive any county, state, or federal funding. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift using the button below.

Donate

Our Core Values

We value our clients and treat them with kindness, respect, and generosity.
We value our donors and are deeply grateful for their charitableness and partnership.
We think of our volunteers as family and are inspired by their commitment and dedication.

About Share

Share of McLean is an all-volunteer, community-based nonprofit that teams with individual donors and partner organizations to assist our neighbors who face food insecurity, economic hardships or related challenges. For more information, please visit our website at www.shareofmclean.org or check our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ShareOfMclean for the latest updates. For questions, contact us via email at info@shareofmclean.org.



Share This Email

Share, Inc. | P.O. Box 210 | McLean, VA 22101 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!