



SHARE of McLEAN

Late Spring 2023

Spotlight

Spotlight on Share's Family Assistance Program

Share's family assistance program provides emergency financial assistance to our neighbors in need of urgent help with payments for rent, utilities, medical services, prescriptions, and other essential services. Even in a prosperous community like ours, there are many people living paycheck to paycheck, or others who have lost their jobs or experienced a family crisis and need a helping hand. Assistance is usually coordinated with the Fairfax County Department of Social Services, who have been working with Share for many years.

In 2022, we wrote checks for \$362,647.04 to help Fairfax County families pay rent, utility bills and medical bills. Many of these families are in the McLean, Great Falls and Falls Church area. Our team of coordinators also provided \$14,305 to help two Afghani families get established in their new homes. The family assistance team has been given several awards from Fairfax County which are on display at the McLean Baptist Church.

School counsellors in area schools can request assistance for their students who may not be able afford the cost of an extracurricular activity, other additional school-based programs, or simply the senior dues necessary to graduate. In February 2023, the program wrote a check to McLean High School for \$890.00 to assist 21 seniors with their senior dues. These students qualify for fee waivers and free or reduced lunch. In the past, we have also assisted with students in band, sports, and other programs. We have even bought an alarm clock to assist a sleepy child get to the bus on time.

The family assistance program relies on generous donations from individuals and community organizations. If you are able to help our neighbors weather some of their toughest times, please [donate here](#). This assistance would not be possible without the dedication of Carol Mournighan, Michelle Shaw and their team of dedicated coordinators. They have been active in providing hope for families for many years.

"I love being a part of the Share Family. When I hear all the news about poverty and people's lack of choices, it is good to say that I, and our team of coordinators, are able to do something about it," says Carol Mournighan.

And Michelle Shaw has said, "I am grateful for the tremendous generosity of

our donors allowing us to assist our neighbors in their time of need. The team of Family Assistance coordinators serves our clients with compassion and kindness as they navigate their way through a crisis. It is a privilege to be part of the Share family."

The team is looking for two additional volunteers to take calls that come in from the Fairfax County Coordinated Planning services department and to evaluate the need and qualifications for assistance. This work-from-home position takes calls on a rotating basis on an average 1 (one) week every 2 (two) months. To learn more, please call the family assistance program at (703) 229-1414.

In "Awe" of McLean Baptist Church's Support for Share's Clients

As we say regularly, Share is deeply indebted to the ongoing generosity of the McLean Baptist Church and the other faith organizations in our community.

In its latest act of kindness, McLean Baptist Church installed a lovely awning outside our entrance. This will provide our clients with welcome shelter from inclement weather while waiting in line to use the food pantry during our openings.

Thank you, McLean Baptist Church!



Photo credit: TK

Calling All Green Thumbs!



Too many tomatoes? Overrun with zucchini? If you or your neighbors are vegetable gardeners, please think of Share – we would love to have your excess produce for our food pantry. Our clients love fresh vegetables, and your garden donations help them prepare yummy, healthy meals. Please help us spread the word to your gardening neighbors. Produce can be dropped off 8:30 - 12 noon on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, but [the earlier the better](#) so our client families can reap the benefits. Please drop a line to

Christ Central Tysons Spring Gift Bag Distribution and Breakfast Provides a Nice Surprise for Clients

We are grateful to our new partners at Christ Central Tysons for creating and distributing generous toiletry gift bags and breakfast items for clients who came to the pantry on Saturday, April 1. The gift bags included personal items such as shampoo, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and shaving supplies, while the warm to-go meal consisted of sandwiches, fruit, and pastries from Panera.

A special thanks to Christ Central's community outreach team of Theresa Nam and Euna Kang for their efforts in collecting donations, packaging the gift bags, and organizing the volunteers.

Christ Central meets at the Old McLean Firehouse at 1440 Chain Bridge Road and supports neighbors in the Tysons/McLean area.



Photo credit: Radhika Samant

Changes to Share's Client Registration Process

We are piloting a new registration process from **May 17 to June 28**, which should help reduce confusion for our clients and streamline activities for our volunteers. This annual registration will eliminate the need for our clients to sign up for multiple registration activities throughout the year and will cover Back-to-School kits in August and holiday gifts in November/December.

Looking for Laptops and High School Volunteers

The teen-run Share technology program provides refurbished laptops to our neighbors in need. More than 600 computers have been distributed through the program to date. Please see this [link](#) for acceptable laptops donations.

We need laptop donations to maintain this effort and we are also looking for high school students who can diagnose and repair donated laptops. Should you have questions, we can be reached at technology@shareofmclean.org

Get Involved

Food and Clothing Pantry



Food Pantry Needs

The pantry is our most visible program. Each 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!**

Click this [link](#) to volunteer with our food and clothing room. If you would like to donate to the food and clothing pantry, please see the list at the right of our most needed items. Donations can be dropped off in person or placed in the outside storage bins located next to the side entrance at any time.

**** Please: no glass, no oversized items, and no items past Best if Used By/Before date.**



Food Pantry ***Most Needed Items*** currently include:

Pasta (spaghetti, elbow, penne, rotini), macaroni & cheese
Pasta sauce (cans or plastic jars)
Canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches)
Rice (1 or 2 lb. bag)
Vegetable oil (plastic jars: 24/48 oz)
Peanut Butter (16 oz)
Canned corn
Dried beans (1 lb)
Canned beans (chickpea, kidney)
Crackers and snacks

Personal Care Items

Diapers (sizes 5-7) and pull-ups (4T, 5T)
Adult diapers (all sizes, both genders)
Toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner
Laundry detergent (20 – 40 loads)
Baby wipes
Tampons (small box of 18)

We accept refrigerated and frozen foods such as chicken, eggs, yogurt, and cheese on Wednesdays and Saturdays, between 8:30 - 12 noon, or thru prior arrangement by emailing sharevolunteers1367@gmail.com.

Other Donations

Share welcomes donations of re-usable grocery size bags, paper shopping bags with useable handles, and plastic grocery bags (used, but clean and intact are okay).

Student volunteers

Share needs your help unloading and stocking donations, as well as helping clients

with their shopping bags during pantry openings. Service hours are available.

Click this [link](#) to volunteer for food pantry openings.

Senior Shopping Days

Share opens our food and clothing pantry on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 11:00 am, for two of the senior citizen residences in McLean, as well as neighborhood seniors (55+ years old).

NEW! Regular openings and senior openings have been combined into one volunteer sign up. Please update your records and sign up to volunteer for both openings through this [link](#).

Mark your Calendars

- Open to everyone! The next board meeting (open to all) is June 15, 7:30 pm. Please send a note to randy@shareofmclean.org for the meeting link.
- Annual client registration: May 17 - June 28 (see above for more details)
- Back-to-school supplies: August 5 - 19

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

About Share

Share, Inc. is a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers and supported by individuals, as well as a long-standing coalition of local religious and civic organizations, to help meet the essential requirements of our neighbors in need. For more information, please see our web site at www.shareofmclean.org or contact us via email at info@shareofmclean.org.



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