



# SHARE of McLEAN

Winter 2023

## Spotlight

### Spotlight on: KIDS!



Share volunteers first met Angelina in 2019 when we delivered beds and living room furniture for her, her newborn and three other children. She had just left a woman's shelter. Three years later, when her apartment was flooded during a major storm, she lost everything and returned to a shelter. Finally, in March 2022, she was able to get another apartment. Since then she has one bed and the children (3, 7, 9, 11) have been sleeping on the floor. They have no other furniture.

Angelina's story is similar to those of quite a few of our clients. Share is starting a program to help change kids' worlds by providing comfortable places to sleep. We have a waiting list for twin, full, and queen-size beds and especially mattresses, and are gearing up to put lots of smiles on young faces. Have your own kids (finally!) moved out? Is it time to reclaim that space for a long-awaited home office or yoga studio? Donate their good condition bed and bedding to Share.

Go to the [Share Furniture Program page](#) or text your name, address, and pictures of furniture to be donated to 703-297-4194.

Don't have extra beds lying around but still want to help? Donate [here](#) or send a check to Share, PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. A \$200 donation will buy a twin mattress, \$100 a bed frame and \$50 provides sheets and a warm blanket. Thank you for your help!

*Photo credit: Share*

## Helping Survivors of the Earthquake in Turkey



Share reached beyond its borders to help those suffering from the catastrophic earthquake and aftershocks that caused such devastating damage and loss of life in Turkey and Syria. Within days of the news, volunteers packed 40 bags and bins of clothing, boots, scarves, hats, blankets, hand warmers, hand sanitizer and diapers and delivered these much needed cold-weather supplies to the Turkish Embassy where they will be delivered to survivors.

Thank you to the dedicated crew of Share volunteers who participated, demonstrating once again that compassion knows no borders.

*Photo credit: Nicki Watts*

## Share Brightens the Holidays for Our Clients

Share helped more than 1,150 clients celebrate the Thanksgiving and winter holidays by distributing donated food and giving out donated gift cards. Readers of our last newsletter will remember that Share provides donated gift cards and other holiday items to support our clients. We distributed these donated gift cards to more than 365 families.

We couldn't have done it without our planning committee, made up of Erica Shane, Nicki Watts, Carol Mournighan, Michelle Shaw, Radhika Samant and Robyn Smith. Key distribution volunteers were Soheyla Mahmoudi, Toni Harrington, Kim Romary, Andrea Adamson, and Brenda and Sophia Beeland. Thanks to all for your support.

## Stuff the Bus is Back!

Help us STUFF THE BUS on Saturday, February 18 from 10am – 4pm outside the McLean Giant at 1454 Chain Bridge Road.

This event, sponsored in conjunction with



Fairfax County, is designed to help fight hunger in our neighborhoods. Shop at Giant on February 18 and help Stuff the Bus for Share clients. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/FfxStufftheBus>

## One Warm Coat

Happy, warm clients put a smile on Share volunteers' faces. Once again, a dedicated team of volunteers gathered and hung many, many coats for our clients to select this winter.

Warm thanks to Christine Peterson, who stepped up to run the coat room and to Catherine delPrete, our liaison to One Warm Coat, which once again provided coats, warmth, and dignity to our clients.

Once again this year, Share was the grateful recipient of new coats from Eddie Bauer, which our clients have been excited to receive!

And thanks to our neighbors for the many coats donated by individuals. We couldn't do it without you!



*Photo credit: Christine Peterson*

## Laptop Donations Needed

The teen-run Share Technology Program provides refurbished laptops to our neighbors in need. More than 600 PCs have been distributed through the program to date. We need laptop donations to maintain this effort and hope you will consider donating your still useable laptops.

\*\* Please refer to our donation guidelines [here](#). \*\*

Donations may be dropped off at Share during regular food pantry hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30am to noon, and the first and third Thursdays of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

We are located along the side entrance of McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. If you have any questions about acceptable laptop or equipment donations please email us at [technology@shareofmclean.org](mailto:technology@shareofmclean.org).

### Focusing on Teen Volunteers - Alex Abraham



Alex Abraham (McLean HS junior) has been volunteering with Share since he was in 7th grade. He has assisted in many areas of the pantry, including restocking shelves, participating in food drives, distributing food to clients, and helping out with a large variety of other projects.

Alex likes volunteering "because it gives me a chance to give back to my community and makes me feel like I am helping people. I like volunteering at Share because everyone who volunteers is very nice. I also like it because I can't imagine not having food in my fridge and I am able to give people a chance to feed their families."

Robyn Smith, who supervises the teen volunteers says "Alex is a key member of the teen volunteer team. He knows the pantry well and is willing and able to take on any task he is assigned. His positive and enthusiastic attitude motivates other volunteers who are working with him. We are very lucky to have his support."

Outside of Share and school, Alex is a competitive gymnast. He has been involved with the sport for eight years. His favorite subjects are math and science and he enjoys playing video games and watching TV in his spare time.

**Thank you Alex!**

### 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](#) if 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. We operate out of McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, and donations can be placed in the outside storage bins located next to the side entrance at any time.

**\*\* Please remember: no glass, no over-sized items, and no items past their "Best if Used By/Before" date.**

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

Canned fruit (pineapple, peaches)  
Pasta Sauce  
Canned beans (chickpea, kidney)  
Dried beans (1 lb.)  
Vegetable oil (24 oz, 48 oz)  
Crackers  
Oatmeal

Diapers (sizes 5 and 6)  
Adult diapers (all sizes, both genders)  
Toilet paper  
Baby wipes  
Shampoo  
Bar soap  
Laundry detergent (20–40 loads)

We can also accept refrigerated and frozen foods such as chicken, fresh produce, yogurt, cheeses, and eggs *but only by* prior arrangement by contacting [sharevolunteers1367@gmail.com](mailto:sharevolunteers1367@gmail.com).

## Other Donations

Share would welcome re-usable grocery size bags, paper shopping bags with intact handles, and plastic grocery bags (used but intact is ok).

## Student volunteers

Share of McLean 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 our regular food pantry openings in March.

## Senior Shopping Day

Share of McLean opens its food and clothing pantry on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 for two of the senior citizen residences in McLean, as well as neighborhood seniors.

Click this [link](#) to volunteer for our senior shopping days.

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**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. In the past few weeks, we have experienced a large increase in requests for rental and

utilities assistance in our service area. If this higher level of need continues, which rising inflation levels make likely, our budget will be severely strained. In some respect, this denotes a red flag similar to the end days of the pandemic when our community so generously responded. Our clients can make good use of that extraordinary generosity as we work through these final winter months.

[Donate](#)

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#### 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 meet the emergency needs of our lower income neighbors. For more information, please see our web site at [www.shareofmclean.org](http://www.shareofmclean.org) or contact us via email at [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto:info@shareofmclean.org).



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