



# SHARE of McLEAN

Spring 2025

## Friends, we need your help.

Just five years ago, we began to feel the far-reaching impact of the COVID pandemic on our neighbors—and you responded with incredible generosity and confidence in Share. Today, we face a new and growing challenge, and we are once again turning to our community for support.

Recently, we've encountered situations that foreshadow the hardships we expect to see in the coming weeks and months. One local family came to us after their primary provider was no longer present, leaving them unable to pay rent or buy food. We were able to step in and help. Another family reached out after the husband lost his government-related job and they faced uncertainty around their next mortgage payment. We supported them as well. Unfortunately, unemployment is rising in the D.C. area, and we expect to see more cases like these.

While these types of requests are not new to Share, the financial support they require is significantly higher than usual. If this trend continues, it will put a serious strain on our budget—and that deeply concerns us.

This is shaping up to be a time not unlike the early days of COVID, when every bit of your generosity was needed and put to good use. We ask for your help once again as we prepare to meet the growing needs of our community. For more information on how you can donate, please see [www.shareofmclean.org/donate](http://www.shareofmclean.org/donate). Thank you for standing with us. We promise to keep you informed as the situation unfolds.

## Spotlight

### Share's Furniture Program and New Beginnings!

Share's furniture program provides donated furniture free of charge to our neighbors in need, many of whom have moved from shelters to their new apartments. Share has been operating this critical program for several years thanks to the dedication of volunteer drivers, schedulers, and helpers. Both clients receiving furniture and the donors providing it have expressed their appreciation for this valuable service.

We are excited to announce that Share has piloted a new program called "New Beginnings." It provides a transformational HGTV-like experience for a qualified client. Shelley Carter, Share volunteer, works with a church, school, or other group seeking to make a difference and matches it with a client who needs their apartment fully furnished. Share provides the foundational furniture, and the group selects items from a wish list developed by Shelley and the client. The trial run of this program was an enormous success, in large part due to the efforts of the generous folks at **Trinity United Methodist Church** who fulfilled every item on our client's list - both necessities as well as some choices that reflected her unique personality. The client left the apartment while the Trinity UMC and Share volunteers got to work, and then everyone enjoyed the "Big Reveal" when she returned.



Share initially hopes to offer the "New Beginnings" to a lucky client once a quarter but will also undertake smaller versions as opportunities arise. If your group would like to partner with Share to change someone's life, please send an email to [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto:info@shareofmclean.org).



Volunteer with the furniture team to help folks improve their living spaces. Regular furniture runs take place each Saturday, and on a typical day, the team will make 5-7 stops to collect and deliver furniture. We urgently need more strong volunteers to assist with this important program. Not feeling up to moving? Donate your gently used furniture by completing the donation form ([www.shareofmclean.org/furniture](http://www.shareofmclean.org/furniture).) or volunteer to respond to pick-up and delivery requests and to prepare a delivery schedule for the Saturday movers. Please email Randy ([randy@shareofmclean.org](mailto:randy@shareofmclean.org)) to offer your time!

## Dedicated Senior Shopping Days Allow for Stress-free Shopping at Share

Several years ago, our Food & Clothing (F&C) program leaders realized that many seniors were having difficulty navigating the often-crowded facilities at McLean Baptist Church during our regular openings (Wednesdays and Saturdays). In response, they recruited additional volunteers and launched special shopping days for seniors, held twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

In support of this effort, McLean Baptist Church generously loaned Share their bus, allowing us to transport many seniors from the Lewinsville Senior Center and The

Fallstead in McLean to and from our facility. The use of the bus has significantly increased attendance, and we are very grateful for this added support.

This initiative has been a great success, serving an average of 35 seniors at each opening. Except during the COVID period—when we delivered food and supplies directly to the two facilities—these special openings have continued to the present day. Seniors arrive, receive a randomly assigned shopping order, register, and then shop safely—at their own pace, in their own time, supported by our volunteers and with the respect and understanding of their fellow shoppers.

That mutual respect among the seniors continues to inspire those of us who are there to assist and observe. This is a group of people who truly care for one another. They look out for their friends, sometimes shop on behalf of those who are ill, help each other get to and from the bus, step in to bridge language gaps, and clarify expectations when needed. They form a caring—and, dare we say, inspiring—community, one we are privileged and honored to serve.

## Grocery Partner Donors

Share would like to take a moment to thank our dedicated partner donors, whose weekly donations of food and other items help to keep our shelves stocked and add nutritious variety to our clients' diets. Their continued generosity helps us serve our community every week.

**Walmart:** Our 5+ year partnership with Tysons Walmart has been a truly rewarding experience. Their generous weekly donations of food and merchandise enable us to provide our clients with so much more than we could on our own. We are especially thankful to store manager Selin Flores Alvarado and dedicated team members Daniel and Alim for their unwavering patronage and for going the extra mile to assist us each week. Your continued support makes a real difference in our community—thank you!

**Giant:** Our long-term supporter continues to make a meaningful impact in so many ways. From hosting food drives and the Holiday Gift Card Tree, to donating Thanksgiving pies, contributing proceeds from reusable bag sales, and providing weekly donations of meat and bread—Giant goes above and beyond to support our mission. They also make it easier for shoppers to give by consistently stocking items from our Most Needed List. Special thanks to Al and Jay in the meat department, and to Joe Donati and his outstanding team. Partnerships like this are at the heart of what we do, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

**Lidl:** Many thanks to a relative newcomer to our community, McLean Lidl, whose generous donations allow Share to offer our clients a wide variety of nutritious food options. Your support plays a vital role in helping us meet the needs of our community—thank you!

**Fresh Baguette:** Thank you for the weekly donations of delicious bread and pastries. Your generosity brings deliciousness, comfort and nourishment to our clients, and we are truly grateful for your continued support!

**Balducci's:** We extend our sincere thanks to Balducci's of McLean for their generous weekly donations of bread and pastries. A special thank you to Brian for his continued support and dedication—your efforts are truly appreciated!

## Community Business Partners

Share is fortunate to have many other community business organizations supporting our work. We live in a very generous area and the assistance provided by the following businesses and organizations is part of our lifeblood. Thank you for keeping Share in your plans for charitable giving and team building!

Thank you, **Keller Williams Great Falls/Mclean**, for choosing Share as part of your annual day of giving back! Each year on the second Thursday of May, Keller Williams agents, leaders, and associates step away from their daily business responsibilities to Renew, Energize, and Donate. This successful effort to address food insecurity and economic challenges in our community resulted in the Share truck being filled with items from our most-needed list. We're honored to have been included in this generous initiative and are grateful for your continued support of our mission.

We sincerely appreciate the generous sponsorship and ongoing support from Theresa and **Clearwater Analytics** over the past several months! This month, the team donated children's dental kits filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other essentials to help encourage healthy brushing habits. Thank you for supporting Share's vision of positively impacting the lives of others in our community.

Each year, on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect donations of non-perishable food items to support local food pantries through the **Stamp Out Hunger®** campaign. We are grateful to our McLean community and dedicated letter carriers for working together to make donating simple and impactful. Share is honored to be the recipient of these generous contributions in McLean—thank you for helping us fight hunger close to home.

A big thank you to Addan and the amazing team at **Capital One** for donating their Build-a-Bear stuffed animals to Share! These cuddly, lovable critters are sure to bring smiles to the children in our community. It's thoughtful gestures like this that remind us how much kindness and care can brighten someone's day — especially a child's.

## Our Youth and School Partners

Our wonderful schools don't just teach our kids "reading, writing, and



'arithmetic" – they foster community involvement and provide an opportunity for children and teens to support their neighbors and in many cases, to assume key roles in those efforts. Below we highlight some of the events our schools have sponsored during the past few months:

A sincere thank you to Bishop O'Connell seniors, **Kyle and John**, for their dedicated weekly help with sorting, stocking, and bagging food for our pantry this year. Kyle participates in an 'expanded services' program to gain valuable work experience before graduation, with John serving as his mentor. It was a pleasure working with Kyle, John, and their supervisors, and we wish them all the best as they graduate!



808. That's the number of items **The Potomac School** recently donated to Share! Each item was date-checked and neatly labeled with categories from our Most Needed List—making it easier for our volunteers to stock the shelves. Thank you, Potomac School, for your long-standing partnership and for helping the next generation learn the importance of giving back to their community. A special thanks to Joy for organizing and coordinating this meaningful event.

Who doesn't like Girl Scout Cookies? Thanks to **Brownie Troop 50312 at Franklin Sherman Elementary School**, Share's food pantry received nearly 100 boxes of Girl Scout cookies! YUM!! Your kindness will bring a sweet treat to those in need—thank you for thinking of our neighbors!

A very heartfelt thank you to the students and teachers at **Davis Career Center** for hosting their first food drive for Share of McLean! They designed flyers for the event, collected items from our Most Needed List, and personally delivered the donations to Share. Their efforts didn't stop there—they also helped sort the items, making the job easier for our pantry volunteers. We hope you enjoyed the experience and will partner with us again



A warm thank you to the amazing first and second grade classes at **Saint Luke School** for putting together birthday gift bags for our Share clients! These

thoughtful bags, filled with a handmade card, cake mix, candles, and other festive goodies, will help make birthdays even more special.

---

## Spotlight on our Teens



Meet **Jeffrey, Harry, Alex,** and **Clement**—four resourceful and compassionate teens from **McLean High School** who made a lasting impact at Share in 2024 by launching the Sack Lunch Program.

The idea began with Jeffrey, who was inspired by his involvement with *Small Things Matter*, a Maryland-based nonprofit dedicated to community service. Around the same time, Clement was volunteering at Share and noticed that while clients often picked up canned goods, a ready-to-eat meal could help them face the day on a full stomach. The two joined forces and invited their friends Harry and Alex to help fight food insecurity—one lunch at a time. Throughout the entire school year, the team prepared and donated sack lunches for Share's pantry openings on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Each lunch included a sandwich, a piece of fruit, and a bottle of water—simple, nutritious, and packed with care.

Jeffrey enjoys helping people and says volunteering is a relaxing way to spend time outside of home. In his free time, he plays video and board games and likes solving math problems. His favorite memory at Share was sorting hundreds of cans into crates for three hours—a task he found both rewarding and surprisingly fun.

Clement sees volunteering as a fulfilling way to give back while gaining valuable life experience. He spends his spare time proofreading webcomics, playing *Warframe*, and reading web novels. His favorite memory was checking expiration dates on canned goods—squinting at the tiny print, then labeling each can with a bold marker to make restocking easier for fellow volunteers.

Harry enjoys making a positive impact in people's lives, even through something as simple as a sandwich. He likes watching old movies and TV shows and designing 3D prints. His favorite moment was delivering sandwiches for the first time—and realizing how much it meant to people waiting in line to receive something ready to eat.

Alex believes it's easy to take things for granted, and volunteering helps put that into perspective. He says it feels amazing to know that something you did made a real difference for someone who may not have the same opportunities. In his free time, he practices cardistry, swims, and keeps up with global financial news. His favorite memory was also handing out sandwiches for the first time. The experience gave him tangible proof that

their work was truly reaching people in need—and a deeper awareness of just how many people need help.

We are deeply grateful to Jeffrey, Clement, Harry, and Alex for their initiative, consistency, and heart. Their efforts fed bodies and lifted spirits, and they set a powerful example of youth leadership in service. We are also thankful for the support their parents provided throughout the year—helping make this effort possible, week after week. We're excited to share that the team plans to continue the program in the upcoming school year as well—carrying their impact forward and continuing to serve the Share community.

## Always by our Side – Faith Group Allies

A heartfelt thank you to **St. Luke Catholic Church** for generously allowing Share's Furniture team to park our trucks in your lot. Your support makes our furniture deliveries and pickups so much easier and more efficient. We are truly grateful for the continued partnership we've shared over the years. It's through thoughtful collaborations like this that we can serve our neighbors in need and make a meaningful difference in our community.

Share of McLean extends deep gratitude for the generous support received during the 8th **Annual Interfaith Concert**, held on Sunday, May 4th, at **Immanuel Presbyterian Church**. This year's theme, "Hope Lingers On," brought together voices from diverse faith communities across McLean in a powerful expression of unity and compassion.

Instead of tickets, attendees contributed items from Share's most-needed food list—turning the evening into a celebration of both music and meaningful giving. Guests also had the opportunity to learn about and engage with local nonprofits at the event's volunteer fair, making the evening not only uplifting but also deeply impactful.



Truly amazing! A huge thank you to **Trinity United Methodist Church Youth Services** for collecting and donating over 800 items as part of their "Share the Love" food drive! You restocked our pantry with essential items from our Most Needed List right when we needed it most. A special shoutout to all the kids and parents who dedicated their time to sorting, date-checking, and stocking our shelves—your hard work and generosity make a real impact! We are so grateful for this growing partnership and for your continued support in serving our community.



## Back to School Planning

We know – school isn't even out yet - but Share volunteers are busy planning for a great start for local students next fall. Every year in August, the Back to School Team distributes school supply kits and a gift to our families with children. The students love getting new supplies to start the school year. College students also receive a small kit, gift, and are eligible to be reimbursed for their textbooks.



We are so thankful for our generous corporate and private donors who make this program possible. **The Country Day School**, with the coordination support of Jamie, once again is getting us off to an early and strong start – for the second year in a row, their generous donation of school supplies will help ensure that children in our community are equipped and ready to learn this August. With the right tools in hand, these students are better prepared to succeed and thrive in the classroom.

Community member can support this important initiative by dropping off donations at Share's main entrance, door #8, located at 1367 Chain Bridge Road (McLean Baptist Church). Just look for the sheds outside. Alternatively, you can email us at [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto:info@shareofmclean.org) to arrange for a donation drop-off. Remember, we accept school supplies year-round. Most needed items can be found [here](#).

## Stuff the Bus



Despite inclement weather that forced this important event to be rescheduled, our Stuff the Bus campaign was another success, thanks to the support of Giant, our volunteers, and of course YOU – our community! In addition, the Rotary Club of McLean generously donated Giant gift cards! Thanks to all who contributed their time, talent, and treasure!

## Volunteer News





### **We will miss you, Melanie Sanders-Smith!**

Long-time volunteer and member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Melanie Sanders-Smith, is moving out of the area. Melanie has provided invaluable service to Share over the years, from shopping for the pantry and registering clients to moving furniture during remodeling. She has championed Share for grants, facilitated food collections, and encouraged her congregation members to volunteer. During the pandemic, she played a key role in securing young Spanish-speaking Sisters and Brothers to assist with outdoor food distribution. We send our best wishes for her move and new home.

## **Get Involved**

### **Food and Clothing Pantry**



#### **Food Pantry**

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!**



#### **Food and Clothing Pantry \*Most Needed Items\* currently:**

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

Canned chicken  
Canned fruit  
Canned vegetables (corn, peas, and mixed)  
Canned tomato products (sauce, sauce)

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. Our volunteers empty the sheds daily.

Please bring fresh produce donations between 8:30 -- 9:30 AM on Wednesdays and Saturdays so our clients can use them the same day.

For large donations, contact [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto:info@shareofmclean.org) to arrange a drop off time.

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

Low or no sodium items preferred

Spaghetti sauce (cans or plastic jars)  
Peanut butter (16 oz.) and jelly  
Canned beans (chickpea only)  
Pasta (elbow, penne, spaghetti, etc.)  
Rice (1 lb. bag)  
Oatmeal (box)  
Granola bars / healthy snacks  
Bar soap  
Pull-ups (4T – 5T)  
Diapers - size 6  
Baby wipes  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Shampoo  
Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)/Toothpaste  
New socks and new underwear (all sizes needed)

\*Currently, we do not need any green beans or black beans\*

*Share can accept refrigerated and frozen food such as chicken, fresh produce, yogurt, cheeses, and eggs but only by prior arrangement (contact: [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto:info@shareofmclean.org))*

## Interested in Volunteering but Not Sure Where to Start?

Check out our new [Volunteer Handbook](#) to discover the many ways you can get involved with Share of McLean! Whether you have an hour a week or a few days a month, there's a role for everyone. Learn about available activities, how to sign up, and what to expect as a Share volunteer. Your time and talents can make a real difference in our community!

## Mark your Calendars

- August 2 – 16, 2025: Distribution of Back-to-School Supplies
- November 19 – December 20, 2025: Holiday Program

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

---

## Membership

Join the Share of McLean Community by becoming a member. Stay connected by completing the [Membership Form](#).

---

### 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](http://www.shareofmclean.org) or check our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ShareOfMcLean](https://www.facebook.com/ShareOfMcLean) for the latest updates. For questions, contact us via email at [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto: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!