



SHARE of McLEAN

Spring 2022

Reflections

From the President



We are so pleased to be sharing this newsletter with our many constituents – volunteers, donors (individual, commercial and religious congregations) and clients. It has been a tough two+ years for our clients and, to be honest, for us too. While we are not quite able to say the pandemic is behind us, it is beginning to feel like we may be getting close.

I would like to share a few reflections on the past couple of years from Share's perspective. Our clients have proved to be powerfully resilient – fighting back against a very scary and virulent virus, sickness from that virus that was indiscriminate but often targeted their oldest and most vulnerable family members, loss of loved ones, loss of jobs, some loss of housing, and constant worry about where the next meal would come from and how the heating and electric bills would be paid.

Between taking courage from our clients' unrelenting persistence and the astounding generosity of our donors, we humbly walked with our clients through the storm and, though battered a bit, we have survived with a renewed commitment to serve and new challenges to meet. While for medical safety reasons we scaled back the number of volunteers we called upon during the pandemic, we are now reaching out, hoping for the return of our old friends and the arrival of new ones. I can assure you that we are doing God's work and we could use your help.

To our donors, we have marveled at the confidence you placed in us to convey your entrusted resources to the benefit of our clients. Our food, clothing, and financial support for clients at times doubled, tripled and for some periods even quadrupled over the past two+ years, all because of the generosity of our donors. We are deeply grateful.

Our volunteers have been truly selfless in the face of escalating demands on time, energy and patience. You served so many with grace, respect and love. You are truly God's gift to our clients. Please spend a few minutes with our newsletter. You will get the flavor of our current week-to-week operations. We welcome any feedback you care to send our way.

Peace and blessings, Don Frickel

Coat Drive Success



Share couldn't begin to fulfill our clients' needs without the help and support of our very generous community. Thanks to the One Warm Coat **drive**, we received more than 300 coats that were distributed to our clients this past winter. As always, we are so grateful to all our neighbors who donated their gently-used winter coats.

Local Tysons Corner retailer Eddie Bauer not only contributed to the initial request but followed up with additional outerwear, including new and like-new warm coats, jackets, down vests, fleece-lined leggings, hats, and shirts. "We are grateful for the generosity of Eddie Bauer and the other local businesses who host these winter coat drives," said Catherine M. DelPrete, a volunteer with Share. "This is a heartwarming example of national retailers using their resources to help the local community."

Photo by Mercia Hobson/Connection Newspapers

Making Friends Through Furniture



With the pandemic easing, Share has restarted its longstanding "travel and adventure" program that delivers gently used furniture to clients. We are looking for new volunteers interested in riding along on a Saturday to see for themselves how gratifying it is to deliver beds to a family that has been sleeping on the floor. Or a table and chairs to a formerly homeless woman who has been eating standing up. Parent/child duos are welcome to help! It's fun work with no prior experience needed. All we ask is that volunteers be comfortable carrying boxes or picking up one end of a kitchen table and carrying it up a flight or two of stairs. The program takes about 5 hours on a Saturday, working from a list of pickups and deliveries prepared beforehand by our volunteer scheduler.

Please help us spread the word to your parish or neighborhood group. We welcome you in this small effort to help the needy among us. You can sign up for a shift [here](#).

If you are interested in arranging a no-commitment ride-along, please contact Randy Glantz, (randy@shareofmclean.org, 703.297.7299) or Stew Lingley, Share Furniture Co-Chair (slingley@aol.com, 703.629.8670).

Helping an Afghan Family Start a New Life

Share is partnering with McLean Baptist Church (MBC) to support two Afghan refugee families who have settled in Fairfax County. Both six-member families from Kabul arrived in Virginia in October 2021 and are starting life here from scratch. Share and MBC have assisted them in finding apartments, jobs, furniture and clothing. We have also helped with school enrollments, medical appointments and COVID vaccinations. And we have provided financial counseling and job support to ensure the families are able to be self-sufficient. It has been gratifying to watch these eager and grateful immigrants settle into their new country.



Little Ladies of Love Sets an Example of Kindness for Us All



Difficult times sometimes bring out the best in us, and the story of the Little Ladies of Love is an exceptional example of giving. The organization was founded in 2021 by 1st and 3rd grade girls from Saint Luke Catholic School. The pandemic caused these girls to reflect on their many blessings and become determined to help those less fortunate.

Share clients were the most recent recipients of their kindness and generosity. With the tremendous support and help from the Saint Luke Catholic School's 2nd grade class, the Little Ladies of Charity stuffed 24 bags totaling over 330 food items for SHARE of McLean. The girls enjoyed an afternoon of arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, and, of course, filling food donation bags. They then celebrated with a pizza party! These girls certainly are an inspiration to us all! Read more about them [here](#).

Get Involved

Volunteer

Share needs several computer-literate volunteers to greet our clients as they arrive during Wednesday and Saturday openings, available at least twice a month. Greeters check in clients and confirm their registrations in the confidential database. It takes over 600 volunteer hours a month to prepare and operate the food pantry – please consider volunteering.

Additionally, Share needs an adult advisor to oversee the teen-run Tech Program which refurbishes used laptops for our clients.

[Volunteer](#)



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry serves approximately 250 families and over 150 senior citizens' households each month, providing a much-needed backstop against hunger, particularly with rising inflation. Clients can select from food items based on their personal preferences and in the amount suitable for their family size. Please consider donating! All the items we distribute to our neighbors in need come from community donations.

A list of most urgently needed items can be found [here](#). Donations can be placed in the storage bins located along the side entrance of McLean Baptist Church or dropped off with a volunteer on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 am - 12 noon. Our clients are so grateful for your support!

Beginning in March 2020 of the COVID pandemic, the number of clients using food pantry services nearly doubled compared to prior years. Last year, we supported 435 unique families throughout the year, with over 2500 family members. Additionally, we delivered groceries to Lewinsville Retirement Residence and The Fallstead senior residence to support 110 households. Many of those households continue to rely on Share for support today.



"Share" the Results of Your Spring Cleaning

New beginnings for our clients often start with your home. The change of seasons can inspire the more motivated of us to clean out closets and assess our accumulated "stuff." Please think of Share, particularly if you have shorts, t-shirts, and other spring and summer clothes and shoes to spare. The Share Clothing and Linen Room is co-located with the Share food pantry in the McLean Baptist Church.

Share also welcomes gently used household items and bed linens, towels, blankets, bedspreads and comforters that are new or gently used, clean and reusable. Please bag linens and mark the bed size.

Donations can be placed in the outside storage bins located next to the entrance of McLean Baptist Church at any time. They can also be dropped off with a Share volunteer on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30AM - 12 noon.

Food Drive at Giant

Share will be hosting a food drive at the McLean Giant on Saturday, June 4th from 9:30 am-3:00 pm. The Share truck will be parked in front of the Giant and there will be teams of volunteers collecting food, gift cards and cash donations. This is our first food drive at the Giant since 2020, and we are



looking forward to hosting this drive to support our neighbors in need. Share is currently assisting more than 150 seniors and 250 families monthly. Our numbers continue to grow and we are so appreciative of all the wonderful support Share receives from our donors and volunteers.

Our sincere thanks to the McLean Giant for allowing us to host this drive and we hope to see everyone there on **June 4th!**

Donate

Share relies entirely on your donations. We do not receive any county, state or federal funding. While the community very generously supported us during the height of the pandemic, our donations have tapered off in the past few months, despite continuing need. Please consider making a tax deductible gift through several available methods 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 meet the emergency needs of our lower income neighbors. 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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