

SHARE NEWS

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try!"

Donations for Share:

Grocery Gift Cards and most needed items from Share Website with COVID-19 Update **purchased for delivery** can be sent to:

Nicki Watts
1533 Woodacre Drive
McLean 22101

A Share Truck will be parked at Nicki's house for donations and will be driven to Share once it is full. This can include those purchases for delivery from Amazon, Walmart, Giant or Target. Our volunteers are not continuously present at MBC to accept deliveries for Share.

Donors also have the option of donating \$\$ online utilizing the **PayPal option** (under DONATE on the shareofmclean.org website) or mailing a check.

Giant is collecting items at front of store that we will pick up.

Another option is for donors to drop off food/supplies in sheds at Share.

COVID-19 Response Report - 2

Thank you, Donors and Volunteers! A little over a month ago, we reported about how we were striving to help our neediest neighbors to weather this COVID-19 crisis and we asked for your help. As described below, your generous responses have enabled Share to provide food and other personal items to more than double the number of families we our regularly see each week and to assist with family finances (mostly rent) in weekly amounts we've never before disbursed. We continue to need the help of our community as we accompany those who are impacted in the most severe ways by the pandemic.

Food Drive-By and Deliveries

The clients appear to be very pleased with the "Grab and Go" process we now offer in the McLean Baptist Church parking lot. Except for Easter weekend, we have been open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. We are also delivering grocery boxes to the senior centers at The Lewinsville and Fallstead each Tuesday. The number of families seeking our food assistance has more than doubled compared to pre-crisis experience. On Wednesday, April 22, for example, we served 65 families. Numbers are close to that on Saturdays and we are delivering food boxes to about 70 seniors at the two centers each week.

Inventories

Inventories remain a challenge, but we have managed to get from week to week with enough to serve the growing demand, thanks in large part to the uptick in individual food donations and online PayPal contributions. We have contracted with Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to acquire bulk quantities of beans, rice and oatmeal and we are purchasing more other items than usual. Please see the **box on the left** for a description of how you can help us through this period by donating food and other grocery items in response to the "Needs List" on our website.

Financial Assistance.

We have had a few weeks now of intensive demand for rent assistance, reaching a high in the week of April 13-17 of over \$12,000 in commitments. Our partnership with Fairfax County continues to be a great help to our Family Assistance volunteers as the County social workers continue to work up every case where a request exceeds a nominal amount. While we prioritize in-area neighbors, we do assist the county in making contributions to packages they are putting together for people who are in desperate need.

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There still does not appear to be any way to predict how much longer our community will be suffering the effects of the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to serve our neighbors as long as the need presents itself and our resources allow us to help. Thank you again for your support.