

## Run a Gift Card Drive to Help Our Families!

If you have a group looking for a meaningful way to volunteer in our community, please consider running a grocery gift card drive to help our Food Bridge families. In addition to the 60 Fairfax County area families who are on our 4-month food assistance program, more than 200 families are referred to us each year who need emergency food assistance to help them feed their children while they are working through a temporary financial crisis. The gift cards you collect will help us fill gaps in our food delivery calendar for our families receiving supplemental food, and it is always great to give a gift card to a family who needs emergency food in addition to the non-perishable items we give them so they can buy milk or fresh vegetables for their kids.

Gift cards allow our clients to meet the specific dietary needs of their family, which may include managing food allergies. The cards also allow parents to make good nutritional choices for their children that include fruits, vegetables and dairy items we can't store in our pantry or easily deliver. The gift cards also allow our clients to practice newly acquired financial management skills, by getting the most out of every dollar they spend for food.

### Instructions for Running a Gift Card Drive

- Britepaths will contact grocery store to set up drive. This usually needs to be done at the corporate level. Please plan ahead: It may take several weeks to get clearance from the grocery store to do the drive.
- Group must have a Volunteer Coordinator who will be responsible for the gift card drive. It is very important that all volunteers behave in a respectful manner to customers and respect anyone that is not interested in donating. There must be a volunteer aged 18 or over in charge of each shift. If children are participating they must be on their best behavior and well supervised if they are under the age of 12. Please remember your group will be representing Britepaths. You may find a Sign-Up Genius ([www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)) form an easy way to coordinate your volunteer shifts.
- Start and end time to be determined by Volunteer Coordinator and store manager. Usually the group splits the time in 2-hour shifts with at least 3 volunteers per shift.
- Volunteers will set up table with flyers and a gift box to store the donated gift cards. An adult (18+) must be present at all times to supervise the donation box. Flyers and materials will be provided by Britepaths and can be picked up at our office.
- Volunteer Coordinator will be responsible to deliver the donated cards to Britepaths' office the following week of the drive. A volunteer group interested in taking on this project must be willing to conduct the entire project independently without Britepaths staff present, which reduces administrative costs and increases the impact of the drive.

Thank you!

Contact Chris Garris at [cgarris@britepaths.org](mailto:cgarris@britepaths.org) or 703-273.8829, ext. 444 to learn more.