

Service Project: Run a Donation Drive to Help Our Food Bridge Families

If you have a group looking for a meaningful way to volunteer in our community, please consider running a donation drive at a local grocery store to help families. Running a drive is a very special way to give hope and help to families who live very near you.

In addition to the 60 families on our Food Bridge short-term food assistance program, more than 200 Fairfax County area families are referred to us each year for emergency food assistance.

Families who are referred to Britepaths for emergency food support are experiencing a short-term financial crisis. The donations you collect will help them stay in their homes and feed their children while they recover. We provide families with a grocery store gift card so they can purchase fresh, nourishing foods that meet their family's dietary needs. We supplement the gift cards with personal hygiene and household items that can be expensive to purchase so they can focus their gift card funds on food. By collecting donations of funds, gift cards and needed supplies, you'll be making a real difference.

Thank you for considering undertaking this important and meaningful community service project!

Instructions for Running a Donation Drive

Group Must Have a Volunteer Coordinator(s): A volunteer group interested in this project must be willing to conduct the entire project independently without Britepaths staff present. This reduces the administrative costs and increases the drive's impact.

This project requires at least one Volunteer Coordinator who is 18 years of age or older and agrees to oversee each aspect of running this project, from contacting the grocery store, collecting flyers and supplies from Britepaths, supervising volunteers during the drive (or ensuring each shift has supervision by someone 18+), and delivering the pantry supplies, funds and gift cards to Britepaths after the collection is completed.

- **Contact the Grocery Store:** The Coordinator or other group member should contact the manager at the grocery store you would like to do the drive to see if they would support you in setting up your gift card drive. They have a calendar and will let you know if the day you are interested in is open.
- **Contact Britepaths and Arrange for Flyers/Materials:** Volunteers will set up a table with flyers and a collection box to store donated cards. Britepaths will provide flyers that describe our donation needs and other materials, which may be picked up in advance at Britepaths' office.
- **Supervise Volunteers During the Drive:** All volunteers must behave respectfully to customers and respect anyone uninterested in donating. A volunteer aged 18 or over must be present in charge of each shift to supervise volunteers and the collection box. Children participating must be on their best behavior and well supervised. Please remember your group will be representing Britepaths. You may find a Sign Up Genius (www.signupgenius.com) form an easy way to coordinate your volunteer shifts. The start and end times are to be determined by the Volunteer Coordinator and the store manager. Usually, the group splits the time into 2-hour shifts with at least 3 volunteers per shift.
- **Coordinate Delivery to Britepaths:** The volunteer Coordinator (or representative) will contact Britepaths and arrange to deliver the donated food, supplies and gift cards to Britepaths' office the week following the drive.