



Family-Led Food Drive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- ***Are there any age limits to participating?*** No, anyone can participate provided there is a supervising adult for all minors (under 18).
- ***What constitutes a family?*** Any group, team, family, and/or friends can participate in the Family-Led Food Drive. You don't need to include minors to participate!
- ***Can we accept regular food items if people offer?*** Yes, all regular food items that are not gluten free and not peanut free will go on the regular shelves of our partner, the Howard County Food Bank. All donated items will be carefully reviewed before going on SAFE shelves.
- ***Can we accept money?*** We recommend that all monetary donations be placed in an envelope along with the donor's name, address, and phone number, so we can properly acknowledge their donation. Donations can be given to a SAFE representative during official drop offs or mailed to SAFE at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046.
- ***Can we encourage online monetary donations?*** You can create your own online fundraiser by going to <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/s-a-f-e-supplying-allergy-friendly-and-emergency-food-pantry-inc> and signing up.
- ***Can we accept non-food items?*** Yes, SAFE accepts in-kind donations to support our food pantry and education/outreach programs. Before accepting these donations, however, we have to approve them based on availability of storage space and after considering potential processing issues. Please contact us directly at info@safefoodpantry.org for more information before accepting non-food items.
- ***Should we sort our food collection for you?*** Yes, you can help us, but please be mindful of your food allergies since some people may donate items to which you may be allergic. If safe for your family, you can separate the following items into separate bags – non-gluten free and non-peanut free items, items past 6-month expiration, and items that have a short-shelf life. SAFE volunteers will double check and sort all donations, so this is not a necessary step. Your safety is our top concern!
- ***What do we do if someone wants to become a SAFE client?*** Please encourage them to reach out to SAFE through our website at www.safefoodpantry.org or by phone at 443-741-1060.
- ***Who do I contact if I have additional questions?*** The best way to reach us regarding the Family-Led Food Drive is through our fooddrive@safefoodpantry.org email address. Tiffany is the main point of contact from SAFE for this effort. You can also leave a voice mail message at 443-741-1060. Please leave a detailed message. Your call will be returned shortly.