



People Powered Food Drive 2023 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Why are you calling it the People Powered Food Drive?** In the past, it was called the Family-Led Food Drive. We wanted to be more inclusive to incorporate all the people who participate from families and friends to teams and groups.
- **Are there any age limits to participating?** No, anyone can participate provided there is a supervising adult for all participants under 18 years of age.
- **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 partners, the Howard County Food Bank or Columbia Community Care. All donated items will be carefully reviewed before going on SAFE shelves.
- **What do we do if we do not feel comfortable collecting food from others?** You are welcome to make a personal food donation to be dropped off at one of our collection points or a financial donation through our virtual food drive at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/s-a-f-e-supplying-allergy-friendly-and-emergency-food-pantry-inc/people-powered-food-drive-may-2023>
- **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 Food Pantry at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 316, 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/people-powered-food-drive-may-2023> and signing up or simply direct others to make a donation at that site.
- **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.
- **Can we sort our food collection for you?** Yes, you can help us. Please be mindful of your own food allergies since some people may donate items to which you may be allergic. Your safety is our top concern! If safe for you, sort the items into the following 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 that all donations are safe for distribution.
- **What do we do if someone wants to become a SAFE client?** Please encourage the individual 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 People Powered Food Drive is through our fooddrive@safefoodpantry.org email address. You can also leave a voice mail or text message at 443-741-1060. Please leave a detailed message. Your call will be returned shortly.