



People Powered Food Drive 2025 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where are the food collection sites?

Food donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

- **Christ Episcopal Church**, Columbia, MD
- **Grace Episcopal Church**, Elkridge, MD

For more information, visit: www.safefoodpantry.org/donation-bins.html

Please **text 443-741-1060** when dropping off donations. You may also contact us to arrange a scheduled delivery.

Are there any age restrictions for participating?

No. Everyone is welcome to participate. However, **participants under 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult.**

Can we accept regular (non-gluten-free) food items?

Yes. While SAFE focuses on gluten-free and allergy-friendly foods, **non-gluten-free and non-peanut-free items** will be sent to our partner, the **Howard County Food Bank**. All donations are carefully reviewed before placement on SAFE shelves.

What if I'm not comfortable collecting food from others?

That's completely fine! You can:

- Make a **personal food donation** at any of our drop-off locations
- Give a **secure financial donation** online at:
<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/s-a-f-e-supplying-allergy-friendly-and-emergency-food-pantry-inc/people-powered-food-drive-may-2025>

Can we accept monetary donations?

Yes! We recommend placing all monetary donations in an envelope that includes the donor's **name, address, and phone number** for proper acknowledgment. Donations can be:

- Given to a **SAFE representative**
- Mailed to:
SAFE Food Pantry
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 316
Columbia, MD 21046

Can we encourage online monetary donations?

Absolutely! You can:

- Create your own online fundraiser
 - Share this link to encourage donations:
<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/s-a-f-e-supplying-allergy-friendly-and-emergency-food-pantry-inc/people-powered-food-drive-may-2025>
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Can we accept non-food items?

Yes. SAFE accepts **in-kind donations** that support our pantry and outreach efforts. However, **all non-food donations must be approved in advance** due to storage and handling considerations. Please contact us at info@safefoodpantry.org before accepting or delivering any non-food items.

Can we sort our food collection for you?

Yes, and we appreciate your help! If it is **safe for you** (based on your own food allergies), you may sort items into separate bags:

- Non-gluten-free and non-peanut-free items
- Items past expiration
- Items with short shelf life

⚠ Important: Your safety comes first. Please do not sort donations if you have food allergies that could be triggered during handling. SAFE volunteers will always double-check items before distribution.


What if someone wants to become a SAFE client?

Please direct them to our website at www.safefoodpantry.org or have them call us at **443-741-1060**.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

The best way to reach us about the People Powered Food Drive is via email:

 fooddrive@safefoodpantry.org

 Or leave a voicemail or send a text to **443-741-1060** (please include your name and a detailed message).