



Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network Receives \$100,000 Grant to Fight Child Hunger

(Verona, Va. – April 8, 2008) – The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network announced today that it has received \$100,000 to combat child hunger in Central Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. The grant will be used for Operation Angel Food, a collaborative effort between the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network, Head Start and the Virginia Preschool Initiative to ensure that children between the ages of three and five have access to nutritious foods for proper growth and development.

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network was chosen for this grant because of the innovative nature and expansion of the Operation Angel Food program, targeting children in poverty and providing them access to nutritious foods at an early age. The grant will allow the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network to provide wholesome take-home snacks on a daily basis to 543 preschool age children who are food insecure in Augusta, Bath, Highland and Rockbridge counties, and the cities of Lynchburg, Staunton and Waynesboro. In addition, the Food Bank will provide 164 children in Staunton and Waynesboro with five dinners per week to be distributed on a weekly and daily schedule. Each year, the Food Bank will add a minimum of one jurisdiction to receive dinners as well as snacks. The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network currently operates 43 Operation Angel Food sites throughout Central Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley.

The grant was made possible by Charity Projects Entertainment Fund (CPEF), which was established to raise awareness of poverty across the United States and throughout the world. With this mission, CPEF teamed up with FOX and “AMERICAN IDOL” to present “IDOL GIVES BACK,” which aired on FOX in April 2007. “IDOL GIVES BACK” was a two-night special which raised awareness and funds for organizations that focus on providing resources for young people in extreme poverty in the U.S. and Africa.

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network received the grant as a result of its membership in America’s Second Harvest – The Nation’s Food Bank Network. America’s Second Harvest was chosen as one of four domestic charities that received funds which were raised through “IDOL GIVES BACK”. America’s Second Harvest is the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization, providing food and grocery products to more than 25 million Americans each year through a Network of more than 200 food banks and 50,000 agencies including soup kitchens, food pantries, emergency shelters and feeding programs for both children and seniors.

“We are extremely grateful for this support of our work feeding hungry children,” said Martin L. White, CEO of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network. “Each year, approximately 49,000 children receive food through our organization. This grant will help the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network and other food banks across the country continue to ensure that these children do not go to bed hungry or wondering where their next meal will come from.”

America's Second Harvest

America's Second Harvest — The Nation's Food Bank Network is the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through its Network of more than 200 Member food banks, America's Second Harvest annually provides assistance to more than 25 million people in need, including more than 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each year, America's Second Harvest secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to support feeding programs at approximately 50,000 local charitable agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and Kids Cafes. To learn more, please visit www.secondharvest.org.

Charity Projects Entertainment Fund (CPEF)

CPEF is a charitable organization established to raise money and awareness to help combat extreme poverty in the U.S. and throughout the world, particularly in Africa. CPEF uses the power of entertainment to drive positive change to achieve its vision of creating a just world free from poverty. CPEF is inspired and supported by the UK charity that invented Red Nose Day.