

What Would You Choose?



A Life of Trade Offs

If you had to decide between paying your electric bill to keep the lights on, or buying formula for your infant son, what would you choose?

Imagine that you have been diagnosed with heart disease and you require medicine to control your symptoms. If you could refill your prescription or buy food for your family, but not both, what would you choose?

If you only had enough money in your pocket to buy food for breakfast, lunch, or dinner – only one meal – which would you choose?

These are the kinds of choices our food-insecure neighbors make every day.

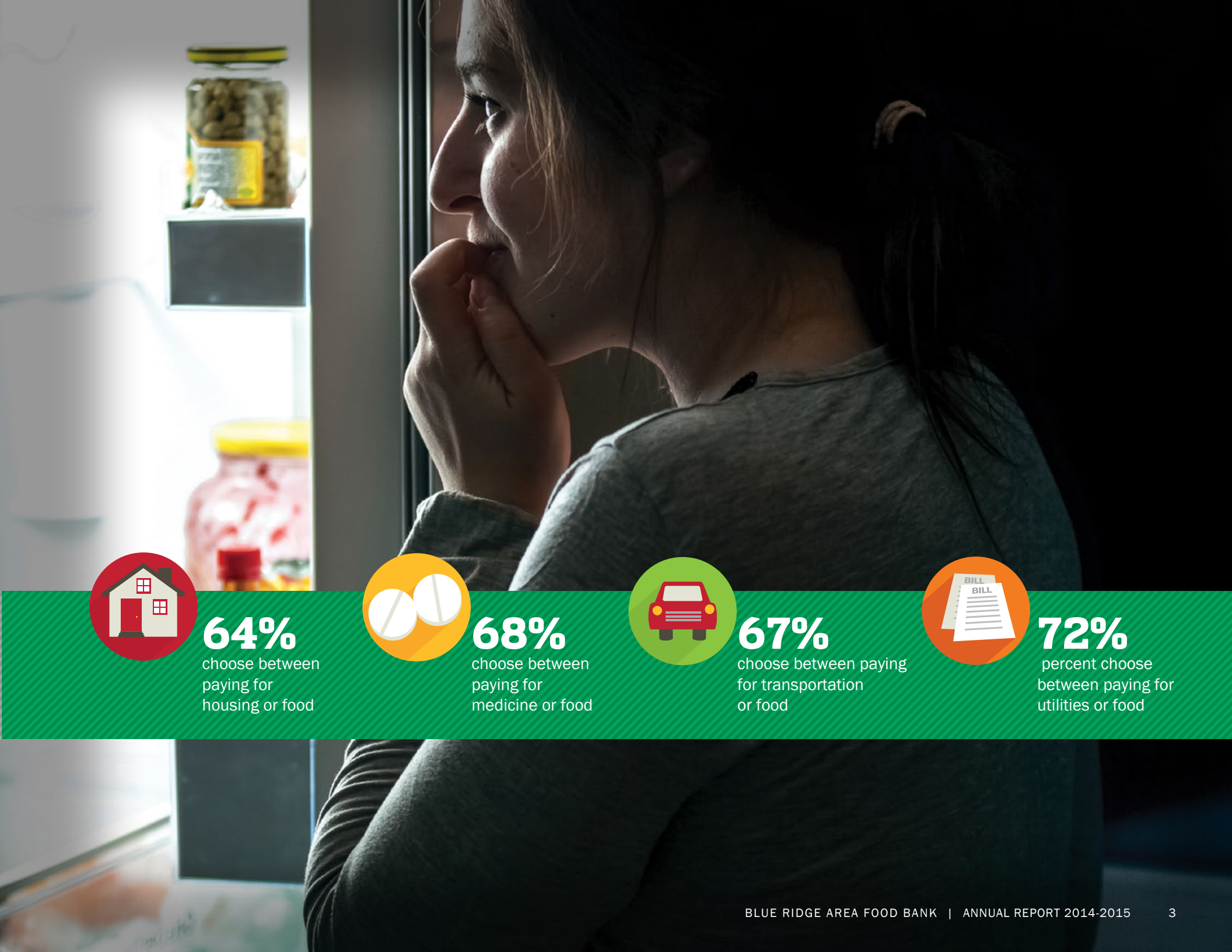
“We definitely rob Peter to pay Paul,” said the Wyches of Buena Vista, Virginia. A mini stroke interrupted Elaine’s job as a certified nursing assistant. The family relies on income from Malcolm’s job at Natural Bridge. To keep food on the table between visits to their local pantry, they pay only the most urgent bills that threaten to suspend much-needed services.

All of our neighbors in need make choices, and fortunately, so do you.

When you choose to give your time or resources, we can keep hard-working families, seniors and even children from having to make painful choices.

Together, we can solve hunger...and so much more.

Thank you!



64%

choose between paying for housing or food



68%

choose between paying for medicine or food



67%

choose between paying for transportation or food



72%

percent choose between paying for utilities or food

Choosing to Put Family First

Ten years ago when Thelma Gilliam's five nephews needed a home she didn't think twice about bringing them into hers, even though she and her husband Gary already had three children of their own.

With more young mouths in the house to feed, Thelma began to rely on Candlelight Ministries food pantry in Lynchburg, Virginia, one of the many pantries in the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank network.

"Candlelight does more for me than any other place," said Thelma. "Without the food pantry, we would have a really hard time."

Thelma worked in temporary jobs until a car accident left her injured and unable to work while she recovers. Her husband Gary is a grounds keeper for their church, House of Prayer. "If you keep God's house, he'll keep yours," said Thelma of her husband's work.

In addition to her injuries, Thelma also lives with diabetes. Candlelight Ministries provides Gilliam with healthy foods suitable for her medical condition.

In moments when Thelma realizes that her family can't make ends meet, she feels worried. Sometimes she goes to bed hungry so the

six children can have food. She lies awake, wondering what she's going to do for her family the next day.

"I sacrifice. I sometimes have problems paying my light bill. I just don't have the money to do it," she said.

Because of Pastors Larry and Cheryl Randall, founders of the Candlelight Ministry food pantry, Thelma and her family find it a little easier to eat *and* keep the lights on.

With some worries alleviated, Thelma can also make sure her growing boys stay involved in after-school and summer time activities.

"The boys play football, basketball, and track. They make good grades and whenever our church is open, we are there," she said. "When they finish school, one wants to go to Virginia State University, and one wants to become a police officer."

Today, the polite and high-energy boys are thriving.



The Gilliam family

In addition to playing sports and keeping up with their academics, 16-year-old Courtney, 15-year-old Arthur, 13-year-old Jamal, 11-year-old Dakota and 8-year-old Damantre enjoy singing for various churches in the gospel group they formed.

Client Briefs

Daily Choices



REBECCA WHETZEL stood in the afternoon heat with her 3-year-old son outside the doors of Hope Distributed, a food pantry in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She was waiting to pick up food for her husband and three children. Her son is lively and active, despite a cast on his leg.

A medical condition keeps Rebecca from working, although she often takes care of her husband's older family members in addition to her daughter and two sons.

Rebecca's husband works hard every day; but after the bills are paid, there's very little left over for other necessities. They must make trade-offs in order to afford everything they need.

But they are lucky, Rebecca said.

A little compassion from their landlord helps keep a roof over their heads when they must prioritize buying food.

"We have a very understanding landlord who allows us to pay our rent late sometimes," said Rebecca.

Rebecca doesn't know what she would do without the Food Bank.

A group of pantry clients begin to filter out of the building. Rebecca scoops up her son and they head inside to accept the help they need this month.



Across town, **ADLIN LOPEZ** sat patiently in the waiting area of Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry in downtown Harrisonburg. She was there to pick up food for herself and two daughters. A single mom, Adlin finds it hard to make ends meet with her minimum wage job. She often chooses to buy food for her family rather than pay all of her bills on time.

"My rent is more than \$600 per month. With car insurance and other necessary bills, it's hard," she said.

It's especially hard during the summer months when her girls, ages 15 and 16, are on break from school and don't have access to the food served at their school.

Both daughters understand their mother's financial circumstances, sometimes offering to help.

"My daughters tell me they want to get jobs to help me," said Adlin. "But they are too young."

Adlin is very proud of her daughters. Their health and well-being are her primary concern.

"My oldest is a cheerleader, and she joined her school's ROTC program," she beamed.

After receiving her food, Adlin rushed to leave so she could get to work on time.

Year in Review

Softening the Blow from Hard Choices

Years out from the end of the great recession, hunger is still a serious problem. Increasingly, our patrons are hard-working individuals in low-wage jobs struggling to make ends meet. To survive, they frequently choose between paying for food or paying for other items, such as medicine, rent, utilities and fuel. The parents of children who receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch while school is in session would face brutal summers without the Food Bank's summer feeding programs and access to food pantries and soup kitchens. Factors such as inflation and drought have raised prices for certain foods, making it very difficult for food-insecure families to fill their refrigerators on their own.

This year, your generosity helped us relieve some anxiety and make their choices a little easier.

Here's what you helped us accomplish.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

118,600



People served
each month

20.6 million



Meals provided

24.8 million



Pounds of
food distributed

5.4 million



Pounds of fresh
produce distributed

Our Outreach Programs

Choosing to Meet People Where They Are

Through several outreach programs, we distribute food directly to particularly vulnerable groups. The majority of our outreach programs focus on families with children, and seniors.

- The **Family Backpack Program** meets the needs of hungry children and their families by providing the components for family meals for weekends and extended breaks, when children cannot access school-based programs.
- **Kids Cafe™** provides a nutritious meal or snack to children enrolled in afterschool programs.
- **Operation Angel Food** provides a nutritious take-home snack to at-risk preschoolers enrolled in school-sponsored, early childhood education programs.
- The **Summer Food Service Program** is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and provides children with nourishing meals and snacks throughout the summer at neighborhood recreation and community centers and churches.
- We drive our **Mobile Food Pantry** truck into remote, rural communities to deliver fresh produce and perishables to people in need. This service often supplements the food offered by small pantries. In some communities, the Mobile Food Pantry is the sole source of charitable food assistance.
- **Reaching Elderly and Challenged Households (REACH)** delivers nutrition to homebound and low-income seniors, as well as those with special needs.
- **Super Pantry/Families, Food & Fun** is a six-week course managed in collaboration with the Virginia Cooperative Extension. VCE program assistants instruct needy families in food preparation, basic budgeting, food safety and other life skills. At the end, participants take home a box of food provided by the Food Bank.

AVERAGE PARTICIPATION BY MONTH: JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

7,530



Children served through after school programs

460



Seniors served through the REACH program

530



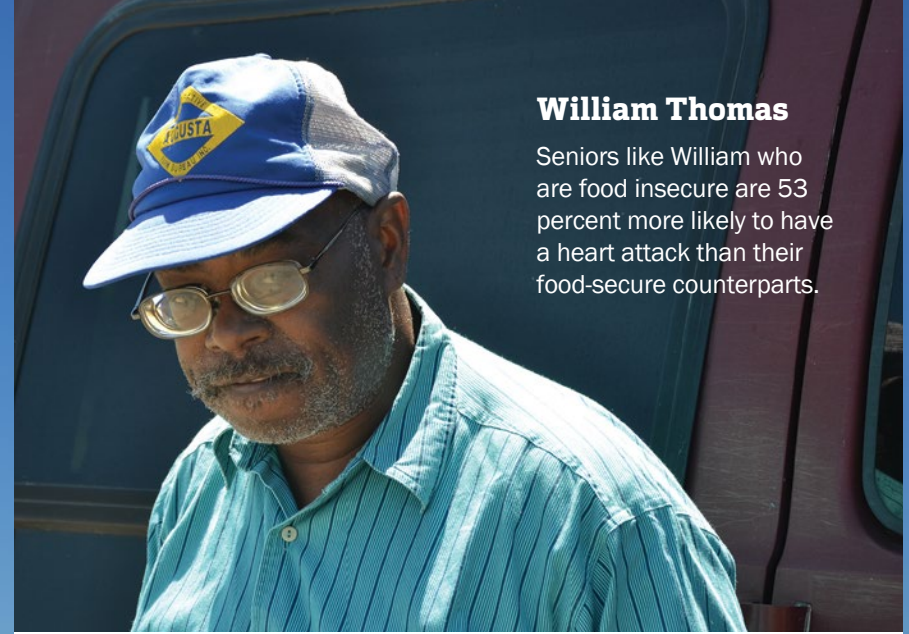
Families participating in Super Pantry

3,530



Individuals served through Mobile Food Pantry

Cars line up for hours as clients wait in line at the Mobile Food Pantry site in Dillwyn.



William Thomas

Seniors like William who are food insecure are 53 percent more likely to have a heart attack than their food-secure counterparts.

Mobile Food Pantry

William Thomas lives with heart disease and has had numerous cardiac episodes; doctors are now contemplating surgery. For now, he takes medication to alleviate his symptoms. But he doesn't always take it every day. To afford food and other necessities, William often chooses to take his medicine every other day so it will last longer. The Mobile Food Pantry at Crystal Cathedral in Dillwyn, Virginia has become a lifeline for him and his wife.

In addition to his heart ailment, he experiences seizures — the result of a 1990 car accident. Sometimes he wonders why he has faced such tough odds throughout his life. Then he quickly pivots and asks, "Why not me?" William relies heavily on his faith to cope with challenges. He believes that his survival can serve as a testimony to others experiencing hard times.

Thanks to the Mobile Food Pantry and other outreach programs, the Food Bank delivers food to William and many other seniors, ensuring access to meals that nourish them through a difficult period.



PHOTO BY MARIA LONGLEY

Our Partner Agencies

Working Together

Our partner agencies are stepping up and making choices every day to help their neighbors in need. Week after week, they place bags and boxes in the hands of our neighbors, and distribute hope and dignity one-by-one. We're thankful to have the partnership of 208 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other nonprofits to take the food we acquire and deliver it directly to people in need.

Lord Fairfax Area

A Small Hand at Edinburg Christian Church
Backpack Buddies
Bread of Life Food Pantry
C Cap
Catholic Charities
Centenary United Church of Christ
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of Christ at Mt. View
Columbia Furnace Love Center
Community Touch
Compassion Cupboard, Inc.
Crums United Methodist Church
Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church Women
Dynamic Life
Fauquier Community Food Bank
Fauquier County Food Distribution Coalition
First Assembly of God
First Baptist Church
Fish of Clarke County
Fishnet Christian Center
Front Royal Church of Christ
Front Royal United Methodist Church Women
Front Royal-Warren County C-Cap

Grace Ministries at Crossroads
Grace Ministries at Crossroads United Methodist Church
Greenway Spirit and Word Fellowship Church
Hayfield Assembly of God
Highland Food Pantry, Inc.
Keep the Change Food Pantry
Lighthouse Baptist Church
Life in the Word
Loudoun County Catholic Charities
Loudoun Emergency Shelter/Volunteers of America
Loudoun Interfaith Relief, Inc.
Loudoun Mobile Hope
Messiah's Market
Middleburg Town Council
Mission Christian Ciudad Desead
Mobile Hope
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
My Church - Keep the Change Food Pantry
New Beginnings Community Church
Open Door Food Pantry, Inc.
Page One of Page County
Phazz One Ministries, Inc.
Rappahannock Food Pantry
Reston Bible Church

Restore Hope House Food Pantry
Riverton United Methodist Church
Salvation Army
Seven Loaves Services, Inc.
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Shenandoah AAA
St. Paul's On the Hill
Stephens City United Methodist Church
Sterling Park Baptist Church
Strasburg Presbyterian Church
Streetwise Ministries
Victory Church
Welltown United Methodist Church
White Chapel United Methodist Church
Winchester Church of God
Winchester Union Rescue Mission

Lynchburg Area

Alliance for Families and Children
Amazing Grace Ministries PHC
BEAM
Bedford Christian Ministry Association
Bedford Church of God
Bedford Community Christmas Station
Burning Bush Church of God
Candlelight Ministries
Central VA Alliance for Community Living, Inc.
Chapel Grove Baptist Church
Chestnut Grove Baptist Church
Court Street Baptist Church
DAWN
Fairview Christian Church
Fairview United Methodist Church
FARRR Foundation @ Lighthouse Community Center
Fellowship Church of Christ
First Assembly of God
First Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Monro
Grace Community Church
Helping Hands
Human Kind
Hunting Creek Food Pantry

Hyland Heights Baptist Church
Jesus Center Way of Cross Church
Love and Truth Community Church
Lynchburg Community Action
Lynchburg Daily Bread
Lynchburg First Church of the Nazarene
Lynchburg S D A Church
Miriam's House, Inc.
Missionary Chestnut Grove Food Bank
Nelson County Food Pantry
New Land Samaritan Inns, Inc.
New Prospect Baptist Church
Oak Hill Baptist Church
Park View Community Missions
Piedmont Community Impact, Inc.
Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry
Scott Zion Baptist Church
Shekijahi Prep Assembly
Solid Rock Baptist Church
Symrna Seventh Day Adventist Church

Shenandoah Valley

Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bethany United Methodist
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Blue Ridge Chapel Church of the Brethren
Calvary United Methodist Church
Campus Kitchen at Washington and Lee University
Central United Methodist Church
Churchville Community Food Pantry
Community Ministry Food Pantry
Community Table of Buena Vista
Cornerstone Church of Augusta
Craigsville Area Food Pantry
Crimora United Methodist Church
Crossroads Baptist Church
Edom United Methodist Church
Elkton Area United Services
Elkton Seventh Day Adventist Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Food Pantry
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
ERMA Food Pantry
Faith Point Christian Center
First Presbyterian Church of Staunton
First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro
Fishersville United Methodist Church
Glen Kirk Presbyterian Church
Greenville Baptist Church
Harrisonburg Seventh Day Adventist
Hebron Baptist Church
Helping Hands Food Pantry @ Mint Spring United Methodist Church
Hope Distributed, CDC
Kingsway Help Center

Kingsway Ministries
Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach
Lee Robbins Ministries, Inc.
Linden Heights Baptist Church
Lyndhurst United Methodist Church
Main Street United Methodist Church
Manor Memorial United Methodist Church
Marquis Memorial United Methodist Church
Massanutten Presbyterian Church
Massie Memorial COGIC
Memorial Baptist Church
Mercy House Inc.
Natural Bridge-Glasgow Food Pantry Inc.
New Directions
Open Door Gospel Church
Patchwork Pantry
Potters House Worship Center
Rejoicing Life Baptist Church
Restoration Ministries of Virginia
Rockbridge Area Relief Association
Salvation Army
Shiloh Baptist Church
Spring Creek Church of the Nazarene
Staunton Seventh Day Adventist Church
Stokesville Community Pantry
Trinity Episcopal Church
Valley Aids Network
Valley Church
Valley Mission
Valley Program for Aging - Harrisonburg
Valley Program for Aging - Staunton
Verona Community Food Pantry
Verona United Methodist Church
Victory Worship Center
West Waynesboro Church of Christ
Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
Word of Faith Church

Thomas Jefferson Area

Albemarle Housing Improvement Program
Antioch Baptist Church
Arvonian Christian Fellowship
Beaver Dam Baptist Church
Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church
Bethel Church of God In Christ
Blue Ridge School at Gibson Memorial Chapel
Boys & Girls Club of Charlottesville
Boys & Girls Club of Orange
Buck Mountain Episcopal Church
Buckingham Church of the Nazarene
CALM White House
Calvary Hill Baptist Church
Calvary of Greene
Calvary Seventh Day Adventist
Caring Friends Pantry

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries
 Church of Our Saviour Episcopal
 Church of the Living God
 Columbia Mobile Food Pantry
 Computers 4 Kids
 Coveseville Baptist Church
 Crozet United Methodist Church
 Crystal Cathedral
 Culpeper Food Closet
 Culpeper Senior Nutrition Site
 Dillwyn Mobile Food Pantry
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church
 Empowering Culpeper
 Esmont Senior Center Rural REACH
 Feeding Greene
 First Liberty Baptist Church
 Fluvanna Christian SVC Society
 Fluvanna County Kids Canteen
 Fluvanna Senior Center Rural REACH
 Free Union Church of the Brethren
 Friends Who Care Ministry
 Friendship Court First Baptist Summer Feeding
 Greenstone on 5th Kids Canteen
 Greer Elementary School
 Holy Comforter Catholic Church
 J A B A - Mary Williams Center
 Jack Jouett Boys and Girls Canteen
 Jouett/City Church
 Kings Corner Fellowship, Inc.
 Loaves and Fishes
 Love Outreach Food Pantry
 Lovingson Mobile Food Pantry
 MACAA
 Madison County Kids Canteen
 Madison Emergency Services Association
 Maysville Presbyterian Church
 Mourners Valley Baptist Church
 Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
 Nelson Center Rural REACH
 New Beginnings Christian Community
 New Faith United Methodist Church
 North Garden Ministries
 Palmyra Effort Mobile Food Pantry
 Salvation Army
 Scottsville Mobile Food Pantry
 Scottsville United Methodist Church - Bread of Life
 Southside Church of God
 Southwood Boys and Girls Kids Canteen
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 Super Pantry-Charlottesville
 Super Pantry-Culpeper
 Super Pantry-Fluvanna County
 Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church
 Thomas Jefferson Coalition for Homeless
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Union Branch Baptist Church
 Venable Elementary School
 Yancey Elementary Backpack



Highland Food Pantry Choosing to Do More

The Highland Food Pantry began in 1990 as a mission of the Highland Memorial Presbyterian Church in Winchester, Virginia when a church member became concerned about those in the community who did not have enough food. In the beginning, five volunteers from the church served between 400 and 500 people a year. Today, the pantry “employs” 50 to 60 volunteers; last year, they served 15,770 individuals.

It was during that time of growth that Highland decided to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so that they could accept donations and reach even more hungry neighbors in their community.

Highland chose to begin the food pantry because they saw a growing need in their community.

“Every day, we saw neighbors and friends who did not have enough food for their families and who did not know where they were going to get enough food,” said Jenny Callis, coordinator for the pantry. “In the beginning, the pantry served only those in the church neighborhood. Today, 75 percent are from other parts of Winchester and Frederick County,” she added.

Highland chooses to do more by helping clients in crisis with financial aid, often to prevent losing basic utilities or eviction.

In some cases, the pantry even helps clients buy medicine. This year, they sponsored a dental care project, during national dental health care month.

“We provided dental health kits to 374 families,” said Jenny. “Toothpaste, floss, and information about low-cost dental health services were distributed – along with 1,600 toothbrushes.”

Their core mission to feed hungry neighbors remains strong.

One morning, a man Jenny recognized from the week before came into the pantry. Clients can only visit for food once per month. When Jenny greeted him, he asked to speak with her. He shared that his son was in prison; the son’s wife was running from the police, and the grandchildren had been left at his house. With a quivering voice, the man reported having no food to feed them.

“I told him I could put together an emergency food box that would help to get him through the week and that the following week was the beginning of another month and he could return for more food,” Jenny recalled. “With tears running down his cheeks, he said to me, ‘Can I call home and tell the children not to worry, we can eat dinner tonight?’”



Our Volunteers

Volunteers Choose Hunger Relief

Many companies encourage their employees to volunteer, but Hershey Chocolate of Virginia takes the call to action further.

- ▶ *If you or your company would like to get involved, visit our website to learn more or email volunteer@brafb.org.*

Hersey's employees not only encourage each other to get involved in the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, they also challenge other businesses in the region to help solve hunger in the community.

In 2011, Hershey extended its annual food drive at the Stuarts Draft factory into an initiative called *Valley Businesses Give Back*.

"We wanted to do something bigger," says Lori Branch, labor coordinator at Hershey. "A lot of passionate people are part of the Hershey village."

Hershey's expanded the campaign into a friendly competition between local businesses and last year invited the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce to help lead the cause. So far, it has generated enough food to provide more than 130,000 meals to people in need.

Employees at Hershey's have spent a significant amount of time volunteering at the Food Bank's headquarters and main distribution site in Verona, Virginia and at several "Stuff a Truck" events (food drives) at local grocery stores

throughout the year. Since 2011 Hershey employees have donated a total of 425 hours, resulting in a savings of more than \$10,000 for the Food Bank.

In the fall of 2014, Hershey selected the Food Bank as their non-profit of choice. During the 2014 annual Hershey Good to Give Back Week, volunteers helped with various projects, contributing 110 hours of service.

They've also hosted meetings for the Greater Augusta Chamber of Commerce during which the Food Bank provided information about hunger throughout the Blue Ridge region.

Hershey's maintains its robust volunteering program for employees through its Quality through Engagement program, paying employees for 16 hours a year of donated time to charities.

Branch says the Food Bank is near and dear to the hearts of employees because of the nonprofit's mission. "Food is a necessity of life – it's such a basic need that should be met," she says. "Children are especially a focus for Hershey. The cause is one that resonates with a lot of us."

Volunteer Honor Roll

The Food Bank is deeply grateful to *all* the volunteers who lend a hand throughout the year in our warehouses and partner agencies; this year we are gratified to recognize those current volunteers who have made a long-standing commitment to the cause of hunger relief.

Volunteers with 3+ Years of Service:

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Stanley Abbot
Paul Brown
Jennifer Carter
William (Bill) Crabtree
Charles (Chuck) DeLa
Jane Dove
Harlan Eller
Daniel and Neva Horst
Lester Howell
Debbie Ioia
Vivian Jones
Rick Kinkead
Stephen Lockridge
Nancy Mohme
Delores Moyer
Lloyd Pollitt
Thelma Pultz
Ed Stone
David Wade
Wanda Walter
David Whitesell
Scott and Sharon Wilson
Jay Young

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Robert (Bob) Canevari
William (Bill) George
Yvonne Gilbert
Erika Raskin Littlewood
Mark Newton
Carolyn Pflug
Barbara Rexrode
Janet Yance

LYNCHBURG

James Canody
William Canody
Kevin Hammonds

LORD FAIRFAX

Joanne Babic
James Givens
Walter (Skeeter) Knee
Walter Shaver
Jimmie Shipp
Thomas Morris
Harry Newman
Dick Dugan
Joseph Schad

PHOTO BY MARIA LONGLEY

23,428

**TOTAL HOURS CONTRIBUTED
BY ALL VOLUNTEERS**

\$583,357

**DOLLAR VALUE OF
ALL HOURS CONTRIBUTED**

TOP 5 Volunteer Groups

FISCAL YEAR 2015

**Blue Ridge Community College
Post-High Graduate Class**

Ameriprise Financial Services

Olde South Village Subdivision

Madison House

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Shenandoah Valley**

Our Donors

Choosing Loyalty

There are a handful of charities that Elizabeth Frazey of Quicksburg, Virginia supports regularly, including those making a difference in developing countries around the world. Locally, she gives to the animal shelter and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

“It’s amazing to me how far the Food Bank can stretch every dollar I give,” she explained when asked why she is moved to respond when it comes to hunger relief. “And on top of that, I live in what might be called the bread basket of the East; it’s unconscionable to me that people living *in my community* don’t have enough to eat.”

What makes Elizabeth’s support remarkable is that she has taken the very long view. Until he passed away, her husband’s charity of choice was the Food Bank, and she has maintained that interest over the years.

Frazey makes the choice to contribute to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank each and every year, without fail. And she has done so for more than 10 years.

That’s a remarkable legacy and an important one because her gifts—and many others—provide a stable foundation for the Food Bank.

Frazey is not alone.

More than 1,440 donors are considered steadfast givers – giving every year to the Food Bank for more than 10 consecutive years.

“To me, long-term support is key – when I give regularly, the Food Bank can count on my support to provide services, to expand programs and to help as many people as possible.”

Frazey lives in Shenandoah County now, but travels extensively for her job implementing software solutions. She grew up in Missouri, “relatively poor, but I didn’t know it then. Many people helped me in my life—opening doors and providing opportunities. I think it’s critical that I give back.”

“If we all pull together, we can make a big difference for others in need.”



Steadfast Givers

1,448

Donors Giving 10+ Years Consecutively

Supper Club Members

809

Donors Giving Monthly

To learn more about The Supper Club, visit www.brafb.org/supperclub



Whether from neighborhood efforts run door-to-door, or neighborhood farms, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank's food donors provide 88% of all the food we distribute.

We are grateful for every contribution!



Choosing to Grow More and Give More

*The Rohrsers and other produce farmers are members of the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction, which joined forces with the Food Bank to create the new **Farm Fresh Program**. Through this partnership, we can distribute even more fruits and vegetables to neighbors in need.*

Clifford Rohrer and his wife Caroline own and operate Valley Farming in Dayton, just outside of Harrisonburg. For seven years they have grown potatoes and a few varieties of vegetables.

Three years ago, they began donating their extra crops to the Food Bank. The first year, they donated 10,000 pounds, and doubled their donation the second year. Now in their third year of giving, the Rohrsers have provided the Food Bank with 20,000 pounds of food and counting.

They're choosing to give even more.

"The Food Bank is a valuable partner to any produce grower, because we always have surplus," said Clifford Rohrer. "We appreciate being able to send more."

The Food Bank's ability to transport produce in bins also makes it cost effective for growers like the Rohrsers to donate food.

"Potatoes tend to be a low-value crop, so the easier the packing process, the better it is for us," Rohrer added.

The Rohrsers, who grew up on their farm, enjoy what they do. In addition to the cabbage and squash they provide, they look forward to providing more of their potatoes to the Food Bank.

15.4 million
TOTAL POUNDS DONATED

12.8 million
TOTAL MEALS PROVIDED

FISCAL YEAR 2015 **TOP 10**

Food Donors

- Walmart
- Kraft Foods
- Food Lion
- Giant and Martin's Stores (Ahold)
- Andros Foods (Bowman)
- McKee Foods
- Bimbo Bakery
- Target
- White Wave
- Family Dollar

Food Drives

- Stamp Out Hunger
- Scouting For Food
- Construction - Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg
- Stuff A Truck
- Neighbors-4-Neighbors School Food Drive
- Holiday Food Drive
- Fork Union Military Academy Food Drive
- DuPont Community Credit Union Shred Days
- WSLS 10 Cares Food Drive
- Valley Businesses Give Back

Designated Grants and Gifts

JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank receives many generous gifts throughout the year that ensure the success of our core mission—food distribution to families in need. We appreciate each and every donor and donation.

Each year we also secure funding designated for specific purposes, like the operation of several outreach programs, the purchase of food and produce, and this year we also asked our friends to help us renovate our main distribution warehouse in Verona.

We sincerely thank you—whether your gift was unrestricted or designated, you helped us feed families and nourish hope.

\$63,500

\$337,698

\$269,394

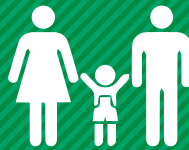
\$582,806

\$43,000

\$33,030



**MOBILE
FOOD PANTRY**



**FAMILY BACKPACK
PROGRAM &
SUMMER
KID PACKS**



**PURCHASED
FOOD**



**HEADQUARTERS
RENOVATION
(VERONA)**

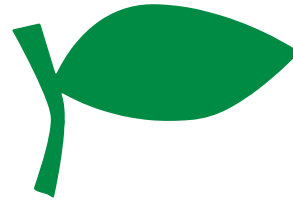
* INCLUDES PLEDGES



EQUIPMENT



**FARM FRESH
PROGRAM
(PURCHASED PRODUCE)**



To all of our
donors and volunteers —

Thank you! Because of
the choice you make to invest in our work,
a child will not go to bed hungry tonight.
Because of the choice you make to contribute
bags of food, **a senior won't have to choose
between buying medicine or buying food.** Because
of the choice you make to lend a helping hand, **a
hungry neighbor will get the nourishment she needs
to make it through her work day.** All year long, you
have helped us feed our neighbors across the Blue
Ridge region. We are grateful for your generosity
and hope through the pages of this publication
you will see what a difference you make.

***Together, we can
solve hunger.***

Financial Summary

JUNE 30, 2014

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	624,169
Accounts receivable, net		217,406
Inventory		1,468,541
Investments - designated for future capital needs		2,700,000
Investments - other		1,510,381
Prepaid expenses, deposits and other		59,599
Total current assets	\$	6,580,096

Investments in marketable securities	\$	1,526,184
Depreciable fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation		1,297,676
Non-depreciable fixed assets		164,086
Total non-current assets	\$	2,987,946

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 9,568,042

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

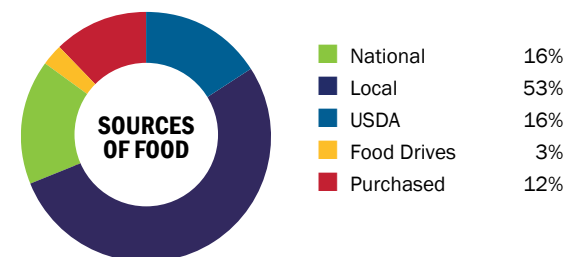
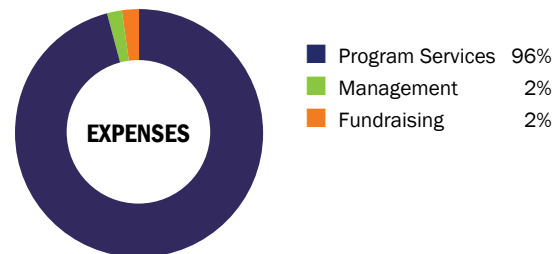
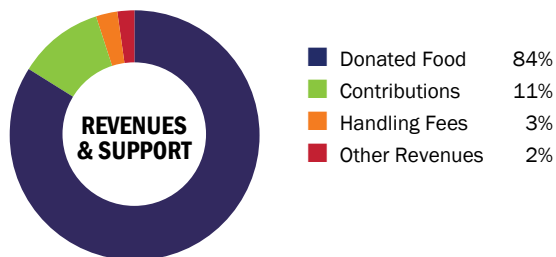
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	200,427
Accrued payroll and related liabilities		91,441
Compensated absences		95,547
Total liabilities	\$	387,415

Net assets

Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$	4,532,216
Designated - funds held for long-term Investment		1,526,184
Designated - funds held for future capital needs		2,700,000
Total unrestricted	\$	8,758,400
Temporarily restricted	\$	422,227
Total net assets	\$	9,180,627

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 9,568,042

Audited Financial Summary - Fiscal year ended June 30, 2014



FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

Revenues

Public support		
Donated food	\$	38,194,518
Contributions		5,232,607
Handling fees		1,525,502
Other revenues		717,677
Total revenues	\$	45,670,304

Expenses

Program services	\$	43,627,466
Fundraising		1,026,750
Management and general		662,044
Total expenses	\$	45,316,260

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$ 354,044

NOTE: Financials include the value of donated food. Donated product on hand at year-end is valued at the national wholesale value of one pound of food, as determined by the most recent study conducted by Feeding America. Food donations and distributions of donated product are recorded at the weighted average wholesale value in effect during the year. The information in this summary was excerpted from our complete audited financial statements, which are available upon request.

Do Some People Choose Hunger and Poverty?

That question can lurk in the back of the mind even in the most giving and compassionate among us. Yes, people in need struggle with circumstances beyond their control – job loss, poor health, unexpected bills – and as a result are forced to make painful choices between eating and paying for other basic necessities.

But couldn't it also be suggested that their circumstances are sometimes the result of other choices they might make – the decision to drop out of school, to run up debt, or to start a family without the financial means to support one?

We were both raised with similar, parental advice about financial stability – “it's all about the choices you make.” And so perhaps it's not surprising that when we think about poverty, we sometimes wonder how much need and suffering could be avoided.

But then we are reminded of this reality: Everyone makes poor choices in life... it's the human condition. Whether or not we fall victim to our poor choices depends a lot on those who surround us, show us the way, and help us climb back up when we stumble and fall.

So many of the people we serve may never have had positive, empowering role models, and the support of family and friends. They're going it alone.

And so it falls to complete strangers – us – to help them up when they fall, no matter the reason. That, too, is the human condition.

It is indeed about choices, including the choice to be compassionate. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for making that choice with us.



Michael McKee

Michael McKee
Chief Executive Officer



John A. Downey

John Downey
Chair, Board of Directors

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**BLUE RIDGE AREA
FOOD BANK**

a member of
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