



**Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK**
Everyone should have enough to eat.

A member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe ceremoniously signed into law legislation to create a tax credit program offering farmers up to 30 percent of the fair market value of crops donated to food banks.



Farm Credit of the Virginias' leadership presents the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank with a \$25,000 challenge gift to match donations to the Farm Fresh Fund, for the second year in a row.



Farm Fresh Fund

Impact Report: The 2016 Growing and Harvest Season

Twenty to thirty years ago, people who were served by food banks received cans of food and precious little else. Today, concerned about the health of our clients, we're making sure that fresh fruits and vegetables comprise an increasingly large portion of the vital food distributed by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and our partners. The Food Bank moves more fresh produce every year through our network – now more than 6 million pounds a year, a tenfold increase since 2006.

There's a clear connection between hunger and health. According to research, people who are food insecure are more likely to be affected by chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, conditions that can be managed and even improved with access to healthier foods and diet. With this in mind, providing fresh produce to our food-insecure neighbors continues to be a top priority.

FARM FRESH FUND Donor Honor Roll 2016 - 2017

Corporations and Foundations:

Anonymous Fund of the Community
Foundation of Harrisonburg &
Rockingham County
Appleseeds Foundation
Community Endowment Fund of the
Charlottesville Area Community
Foundation
Farm Credit of the Virginias*
Farmers & Merchants Bank
First Bank & Trust Company
MillerCoors - Shenandoah Brewery
Rockingham Group
Shenandoah Community Foundation

Individuals:

Francis & Virginia Carter
John & Kim Conway
Gerald & Anita Heatwole
Betty Ketron
Eugene Lantz
Martha Merz
Scott & Ruth Ann Snyder
Greyson & Ariana Williams – Hilltop
Foundation

**provided \$25,000 challenge gift*

Local Produce, Regional Impact

With your support, you are ensuring that neighbors with fewer resources have access to more fresh vegetables and fruits. Thank you!

With the help of a matching challenge gift from Farm Credit of the Virginias, you joined with the Food Bank and growers across the Commonwealth to help us grow and harvest the *Farm Fresh Fund*.

Thanks to the generous support we received from donors this year totaling \$61,569, in 2016 the Food Bank was able to secure 490,129 pounds of Virginia produce including apples, squash, fresh greens, corn and more. The *Farm Fresh Fund* makes it possible for us to support local farmers and distribute even more homegrown fresh foods to thousands of families in communities across the Blue Ridge.

We also worked with elected officials this year to create incentives for growers to do more. In June 2016, Governor McAuliffe visited the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank to sign new legislation, creating state tax incentives for produce donations to Food Banks across the state.

Seeds of Hope

We are grateful to you for helping to plant seeds of hope, for helping to provide more wholesome foods than ever, and for making a difference in the lives of so many hungry children, seniors and families in our community.

We hope you will continue to support the *Farm Fresh Fund* so that we can continue to provide local fresh produce and nourish our hungry neighbors.

Together, we can – and do – solve hunger.



For More Information:

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