

FACT SHEET

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Our Mission

To provide nourishing food to our neighbors in need through vibrant community partnerships and passionate public support.

About the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Established in 1981, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is the largest organization alleviating hunger in western and central Virginia.

We serve neighbors in 25 counties and eight cities on either side of the Blue Ridge through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester and Verona.



Our Branches

Shenandoah Valley Area branch & headquarters office (Verona): Serving Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro and counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham

Lord Fairfax Area branch (Winchester): Serving Winchester and counties of Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah and Warren

Thomas Jefferson Area branch (Charlottesville): Serving Charlottesville and counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Fluvanna, Greene, Madison, and Orange

Lynchburg area branch: Serving Lynchburg and counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell and Nelson

Serving **105,100** people each month

25.3 million pounds distributed (*21 million meals*)

Serving **8,757** children each month through outreach programs

212 partner agencies (food pantries, soup kitchens & shelters)

How We Work

We help people in need through a mostly volunteer network of partner agencies—food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Most of these agencies receive 80% or more of their food supply from the Food Bank.

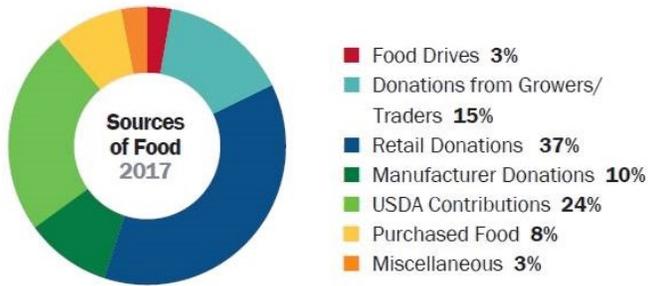
In addition to distributing food through community partner agencies, we operate the following outreach programs for children, families and seniors:

- **Family Backpack Program** provides food to families and children on weekends and holidays, during the school year.
- **Kids Cafe™** provides meals and snacks to students enrolled in after school programs during the school year.
- **Summer Food Service Program** provides food for community sites hosting children during summer break.
- **Summer Kid Packs** provides monthly food bags to families with children, during the summer months.
- **Reach Program** provides boxes and bags of food monthly to seniors, and homebound adults.
- **Mobile Food Pantry (MFP)** provides fresh and nonperishable food delivery in rural communities.
- **Super Pantry** is a program we offer in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, to educate families about nutrition and food preparation.

Learn more about our programs online at brafb.org.

Our Food

We obtain our food through national, regional and local sources. We're also progressively securing more fresh produce, meat, dairy and other perishable goods through farmers, gleaning organizations and other local and national growers. Last year, we distributed 6.2 million pounds of fresh produce.



NOTE: Miscellaneous includes transfers and trades with other food banks, prepared foods, and other misc.



“There are kids out there who are just like me who, without the Food Bank, would be going hungry. Because they are being nourished by this organization and the people who support it, they are sure to have more energy, enthusiasm, and opportunities to discover who they are.”

—JESSICA WIRTANEN, FORMER CHILD CLIENT

Food Insecurity in the Blue Ridge Area

- Our clients make tough choices every day between buying food and paying for other necessities such as utilities, rent or mortgage, gas for their cars and medical care.
- 1 out of every 11 neighbors (139,140 or 9.1%) living in the Blue Ridge service area struggles with hunger. 11.2% of Virginians are food insecure.
- 1 out of every 7 children—or 47,430 children in our service area—struggles with hunger. In Virginia, 14.4% of children are food insecure.
- Seniors, more than any other group, are relying with increasing frequency on charitable food assistance. Because of the rapidly aging Baby Boomer generation, the number of food insecure seniors is expected to increase by 50 percent by 2025.