



MEDIA CONTACT:
Abena Foreman-Trice
Communications Director
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
aforemantrice@brafb.org

Martin's Food Markets Donates \$60,000 to Support Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Community Food Distribution and Child Nutrition Programs

(VERONA, Va.- May 31, 2018) — Martin's Food Markets announced a \$60,800 donation to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank for three Mobile Food Pantry distribution sites and the Gus Bus Neighborhood Produce Market throughout 2018 — and is recognized as the official sponsor of these important programs designed to ensure everyone has enough to eat in Harrisonburg, and rural Rockingham, Bath, and Highland counties. They have promised a similar donation to continue these programs in 2019.

“The partnership with Martin's Food Markets is a perfect example of what makes it possible for us to provide food to so many neighbors in need, throughout the year,” said Karen Ratzlaff, Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. “Behind every company name and brand is a family of caring, compassionate people who want to work with us to make our communities stronger, healthier and nourished.”

On Thursday, June 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12noon, Martin's volunteers and representatives will help provide food to neighbors in need at the Timberville Mobile Food Pantry distribution site located at the Plains District Community Center in Timberville. **A photo opportunity and remarks will take place at 11:15 a.m. Media interviews will be made available.**

Through the Mobile Food Pantry program, people living in remote, rural communities receive fresh, wholesome produce along with other food staples, every month. This gift from Martin's funds sites in Bath, Highland, and Rockingham counties for one year.

“We are both humble and excited to help Blue Ridge Area Food Bank reach more neighbors with these Mobile Food Pantries,” said Steve Angle, District Director, Martin's Food Markets. “With this partnership, together we can reach deep into communities to help struggling families by bringing the food right to their neighborhood.”

In partnership with James Madison University, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank also runs a mobile produce market alongside the Gus Bus literacy program in Harrisonburg neighborhoods — bridging nutrition and learning throughout the year. Participating children and their families receive fresh produce in a farmer's market setting, during the summer months. Martin's is funding these Neighborhood Produce Markets, as well.

This year marks Martin's 95th Anniversary of being in business and they have chosen to observe this milestone by giving back to the communities in which they operate. Martin's has long supported programs that help those needing food assistance and are responsible for providing 910,086 meals within the central Shenandoah Valley since 2011.

About the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Founded in 1981, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is the largest organization alleviating hunger in western and central Virginia. Headquartered in Verona, VA, the Food Bank serves 25 counties and eight cities through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester and Verona. The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank distributes nearly 25.3 million pounds of food annually to 105,100 people each month through a network of 212 community partners – food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, churches and other non-profit groups. The Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, a national food bank association that supports 200 food banks across the United States. For more information, visit www.brafb.org.

About GIANT Food Stores, LLC

GIANT Food Stores, LLC has more than 170 neighborhood stores and offers home delivery, online/mobile ordering, fuel centers, pharmacies, plus in-store nutritionists. Serving families in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, GIANT Food Stores is proud to employ more than 30,000 associates who believe in giving back to their community. Founded in 1923 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, GIANT Food Stores is a company of Ahold Delhaize. For more information visit the [GIANT](#) or [MARTIN'S](#) websites.

###