



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Continues to Operate
During Stay-At-Home Order**

(VERONA, Va. — March 30, 2020) — The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is an essential human service. As such, our organization, along with our partner food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters, continues to operate while Virginia’s stay-at-home order is in effect.

Just as we did before Governor Ralph Northam’s announcement on March 30, we will continue to implement strict health and sanitization practices in our warehouses to protect our staff members, volunteers, and visitors.

The Food Bank primarily supplies community food pantries and feeding programs with food to provide directly to people in need. Individuals in need of food assistance should visit the Food Bank’s website, click on “Find Help” and use the Pantry Locator to find assistance close to home, or call 2-1-1 for information on food assistance.

We’re grateful for the many new and loyal, existing volunteers who stepped up in response to our recent call for help. Without them, we could not have responded to the increased demand for food in a timely manner. **We will continue to need more volunteers who are healthy and low-risk.** During this period, **the Food Bank will provide an exemption letter** for staff and volunteers traveling on business for the Food Bank. This includes travel to and from our warehouse locations in Verona, Winchester, Charlottesville, and Lynchburg, and numerous mobile distributions.

Interested people can view volunteer guidelines and precautions and [sign up online for current volunteer opportunities](https://www.brafb.org/volunteer) at [brafb.org/volunteer](https://www.brafb.org/volunteer).

Nutritious food is essential. And we believe everyone should have enough to eat.

The Food Bank welcomes financial donations to help respond to the growing need for food assistance. Visit [brafb.org](https://www.brafb.org) and click on Donate (<https://www.brafb.org/give-now/>).

For more information, please contact Abena Foreman-Trice at 540-280-6588.

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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 26.4 million pounds of food annually to 103,500 people each month through a network of 205 community partners – food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, churches and other non-profit groups – and 175 program sites serving children, seniors, and families. 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.