



Blue Ridge Area  
**FOOD BANK**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Food Bank Partners with Empowering Culpeper for Second Food Distribution at Sports Complex**

*Last Month's Pantry Distribution Served Record Number of Households*

**(Culpeper, Va. — May 1, 2020)** — Saturday, May 2, will mark the second Empowering Culpeper and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank food distribution to take place at the Culpeper Sports Complex. The complex offers more space to safely provide food to the new wave of households expected to be in need as a result of rising unemployment due to COVID-19. The distribution begins at 9 a.m.

Organizers expect approximately 500 vehicles to return for more food supplies.

After an increase in need for food assistance led to traffic congestion on the road to Empowering Culpeper's church pantry site, leaders moved their operations to a bigger location.



In April, Jill Skelton of Empowering Culpeper reached out to acquire more food than she usually receives from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. It took a tractor trailer and a box truck to transport enough food to the sports complex, where about 500 vehicles waited in lines.



Skelton, who manages food distribution for Empowering Culpeper, mobilized 44 members of her community to lend a hand at the mid-April distribution. All told, volunteers provided 2,000 bags of food, which they busily packed onsite.

Clad in facial coverings and gloves, the group braved early morning rain, then relentless wind to place food in the cars of neighbors who needed help.

To assist Culpeper-area families in keeping their cupboards stocked, the food pantry will host another distribution at the sports complex.

Volunteers, community partners and the Food Bank, along with Skelton, will once again set up tents, unload food, assemble food bags, and safely place food in cars. Visitors from Culpeper and surrounding counties, such as Madison and Orange, will line up in the early morning hours, share information such as their household size, and receive the food components they need to put meals on the table. Empowering Culpeper is one of the 205 food pantry partners working with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank across 25 counties in Virginia.



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](http://www.brafb.org).