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## **Giant Food Donation Helps the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Meet Increased Need During the Pandemic**

**(VERONA, Va. — August 10, 2020)** — Giant Food has donated \$120,000 to help the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank cover operational costs associated with meeting increased community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. A portion of the donation—\$70,000—served as a matching gift to boost the impact of an online giving campaign.

Giant pledged more than \$1 million to food banks throughout the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia region. The company understood their nonprofit partners would face new pressures while serving others during the pandemic. So, they stepped in to help.

"The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, as well as Giant's other Feeding America food bank partners are currently under extraordinary pressure and need everyone's support to continue their vital services," said Felis Andrade, Director of Community Relations at Giant Food. "We proudly stand behind the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in their COVID-19 response effort, and we will continue to find multiple ways to support them and our food bank partners."

This gift is an extension of Giant's long-time support of the Food Bank's work, and a demonstration of Giant's commitment to helping neighbors who have trouble putting food on the table—especially now.

"This has been an unprecedented period of time for us as a food bank," said Michael McKee, CEO of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. "As a result of high unemployment, we've seen a 12% increase in visits to partner food pantries, mobile pantries, and demand for Emergency Food Boxes from March-June 2020, compared to the same time period last year. We're thankful for Giant's unwavering support and for considering our needs in this time of crisis."

In addition to providing funds, Giant has donated about 3.6 million pounds of food to the Food Bank since July 2016—or enough for 3 million meals. Giant associates have also

provided valuable volunteer time to the Food Bank, providing employees the opportunity to help neighbors who can't always afford the meals they need.

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 27.8 million pounds of food annually to 118,000 people each month through a network of 203 community partners - food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, churches, and other non-profit groups - and 180 nutrition 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). For more ways businesses can help, visit [www.brafb.org/give/more-ways-to-give/business-partnerships/](http://www.brafb.org/give/more-ways-to-give/business-partnerships/).

### **About Giant Food:**

Giant Food is headquartered in Landover, Md. and operates 163 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia with approximately 20,000 associates. Included within the 163 stores are 153 full-service pharmacies, 81 full-service PNC Banks and 23 Starbucks locations. With flexible options and convenient solutions, Giant fits all the ways today's busy consumers want to shop – whether in store, via Giant Pickup or home delivery from Giant Delivers which combined serves 159 store locations. For more information on Giant, visit [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com).