Ready to Respond—Thanks to You

First the COVID-19 health crisis and then the economic crisis—this is a period of time like no other. We are pleased to report that the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and its partners have been able to adapt and respond, throughout, and in large measure that’s because of your support. We continue to prioritize the well-being of our staff, volunteers, partners and clients while doing everything we can to make sure people have enough to eat.

We remain passionate about our mission and assure you that your trust and investment in us is well placed. We value your commitment to the welfare of your neighbors and promise we will continue to serve those in need throughout these challenging times.

To read the details of our current response to the COVID-19 crisis, visit our website at www.brafb.org/covid-19/. To view a recording of a recent online forum our CEO hosted, visit www.brafb.org/CEOtalks.
Top Priority—Meeting the Need

- We’re serving about 15% more people on average than we were in 2019; up from about 103,500 to more than 115,000 per month in May.
- The number of new households seeking food assistance has quadrupled since early 2020; 24% of visitors to food pantries in May were people who had not sought services before.
- More people than ever are using a pantry locator on our website to find food assistance near them—up 395% March through May, compared to the same time last year.

Achievements and Updates as of June 15

- Food moving through our warehouses was up 30% from March through May compared to the same period in 2019.

- In addition to the continuing operation of 9 existing sites, we launched two new monthly Mobile Food Pantry locations:
  - Rustburg (Campbell County)—427 people received food at the first distribution in May
  - Reva (Culpeper County)—first distribution June 24

- Thanks to donor support, we’ve purchased more than $2 million worth of food since mid-March, and we’ve waived all shared fees for food pantry, soup kitchen, and shelter partners, including reimbursements for purchased food.

- Summer Kid Pack distribution is up 109% compared to last year—we are packing 4,400 bags and boxes of food each month this summer for families with children.

- More than 700 people have joined our volunteer ranks (since mid-March).

Ernest is a retired carpenter who now lives with his daughter and two grandchildren as a result of the pandemic. After the bills are paid, there’s nothing left for food, so he visits Feeding Greene to bring home what they need. “The pantry has been a blessing.”

Most updates like this are sent via email. If you want to stay current about the work and needs of the Food Bank, please subscribe to “Come to the Table” on our website at www.brafb.org/newslettersignup.