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Rockbridge Feeds Launches Website to Help Neighbors Find Local Sources of Food Assistance

ROCKBRIDGE, Va., May 13, 2021—The Rockbridge Feeds Coalition, a hunger relief group comprised of 11 local agencies, is proud to formally introduce themselves along with their new resource for Rockbridge area residents who need help getting groceries but don't always know where to turn. Today, they announce the launch of their new website RockbridgeFeeds.org. The online tool shows visitors where to find hot meals for today and groceries for tomorrow.

"We're thrilled about RockbridgeFeeds.org because there are so many folks looking for help. This website is the only URL they will need to know to get connected to the numerous food resources available throughout the Rockbridge area," said RARA executive director Jen Handy. "Whether you need food, know someone who needs food, or you want to help get food out into the community, RockbridgeFeeds.org makes it easy to find the info you're looking for."

The website indexes food resources in and around the Rockbridge community, provides locations and operating hours, and describes what to expect during a food pantry visit.

The comprehensive features of <u>RockbridgeFeeds.org</u> are all part of the coalition's efforts to make an impact on hunger in the area. Coalition members once worked together behind the scenes. A few years ago, they decided to join forces, understanding that there's strength in unity.

"When our local hunger relief organizations came together and formed the Rockbridge Feeds Coalition, members committed to addressing food insecurity and improving food access in Rockbridge by working together, deepening their relationships, and building their collective capacity to effect change," Handy added.

Current Rockbridge Feeds member organizations are:

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Bridge to Hope Food Pantry Campus Kitchen at W&L Gospel Way Food Pantry Kingsway Help Center Meals for Shut Ins Natural Bridge Glasgow Food Pantry Rockbridge Area Relief Association The Community Table Valley Program for Aging Services

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Serving Rockbridge County and 24 other counties and eight cities throughout central and western Virginia, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is a coalition member, bringing financial support and coalition-building experience to the group's efforts to reduce hunger.

"We're grateful to be a part of Rockbridge Feeds," said Robin Swecker, partner engagement manager for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. "By working together, we can better help families experiencing hard times or who temporarily need help affording groceries during the pandemic. We share a commitment to making sure everyone in need in the Rockbridge region has enough to eat."

Community members interested in doing their part to champion hunger relief can also find ways to get involved with the agencies that make up Rockbridge Feeds. Social media users can also follow Rockbridge Feeds on Facebook and Instagram.

For more information, please contact Jen Handy at <u>director@raralex.org</u>, or 540.463.6943, and Abena Foreman-Trice at <u>aforemantrice@brafb.org</u> or 540.213.8405.

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