

## School Food Drive Nets Highest Number of Food Pounds Since 2016

*The pandemic was no match for the spirited Albemarle County student who led the way*

**VERONA, Va., May 17, 2021**—While the pandemic disrupted how and where student learning took place, Albemarle High School rising senior Kat Ravichandran adapted and powered through to achieve her goal of making the 2021 School Food Drive a success. This year’s event garnered the highest number of food pounds collected for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank since the 2016 School Food Drive, enough to provide 7,000 meals for neighbors in need.

Kat took up the baton as the School Food Drive student coordinator, previously held by Ryleigh Katstra, who graduated from Albemarle in 2020. Last year, Kat also founded a group called “Students Working Against Hunger” to fight food insecurity in the Charlottesville region. This past winter, Kat recruited 18 schools to participate in the region-wide food drive. Albemarle High School has the distinction of collecting the most pounds of food—1,390 pounds to be exact.



For Kat, it was especially important to pursue this event during the pandemic. “The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank School Food Drive serves as a wonderful opportunity for local students to unite against food insecurity,” says Kat. “With dramatic dips in the Food Bank’s usual sources of food during the pandemic, the food supplies we collect will be a big help.”

Participating schools for 2021 collected a total of 8,300 pounds of food. They included:

Agnor-Hurt Elementary School  
Albemarle High School  
Charlottesville High School  
Community Middle/Murray High School  
Field School of Charlottesville  
Hollymead Elementary School  
Mary C. Greer Elementary School  
Mortimer Y. Sutherland Middle School  
Mountain View Elementary School  
Peabody School

Regents School of Charlottesville  
(Lower)  
Renaissance School  
St. Anne's Belfield School (Upper)  
Tandem Friends School  
Venable Elementary School  
Walton Middle School  
Western Albemarle High School  
Woodbrook Elementary School

“Working with Kat was inspiring,” said Colleen Berger, volunteer and food drive coordinator for the Food Bank. “I’m grateful for the work she put in and for all of those who participated in making this year’s School Food Drive a success,” she added.

The non-perishable food items collected will boost the Food Bank’s supplies this spring, a time when donations traditionally run low.

Since the School Food Drive’s inception, participating schools have collected 73,367 pounds of food, providing 61,119 meals for neighbors in need. The impact proves that young people can and do make a difference in their communities. For more information, contact Abena Foreman-Trice at [aforemantrice@brafb.org](mailto:aforemantrice@brafb.org) or 540.280.6588.

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### **About the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank**

Founded in 1981 and headquartered in Verona, Va., the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is proud to mark 40 years of providing nourishing food to our neighbors in need. As the largest organization alleviating hunger in western and central Virginia, the Food Bank serves an average of 122,406 individuals each month across 25 counties and eight cities through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester, and Verona. This 40th year is like no other: Together with our network of 203 community partners and 180 program sites, we’re serving record numbers of Virginians during a prolonged pandemic and recession. We pledge to continue innovating and adapting to secure, store, and distribute more food to more individuals, families, children, and seniors in need. The Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, a national food bank association that supports 200 food banks across the United States providing 6 billion meals to 42 million people through 60,000 partner pantries each year. For more information, visit [www.brafb.org](http://www.brafb.org).