



All Four Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Warehouses Achieve Highest Food Safety Rating

VERONA, Va. (May 2, 2022) – Each of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank’s four warehouse facilities were recently awarded the American Institute of Baking’s (AIB) highest food safety rating, Superior, following its recent audit of the Food Bank’s facilities.

Each Blue Ridge Area Food Bank branch ranked Superior, scoring in the 900s on a 1,000-point scale. A passing score is 700 and above. Facilities that score in the top 25% are awarded a Recognition of High Achievement – Superior.

Safeguarding the warehouse inventories is complicated because of the volume and the variety of shelf-stable and perishable food that the Food Bank handles. In the past year, the Food Bank received, stored, and distributed nearly 29 million pounds of food (including 6 million pounds of produce) through partner pantries, program site partners, and our mobile programs, serving over 118,000 people per month.

“The quality of the food we provide our partners and those experiencing food insecurity should never be in question. AIB audits are understandably stringent concerning food safety, health, and cleanliness, which is why we take so much pride in our continued superior food safety ratings,” said Chief Operating Officer, Ron Morris. “Such high ratings are a testament to the collective hard work and dedication to quality from everyone at the organization.”

AIB audits are voluntary and are conducted to evaluate an organization’s operational compliance with food safety standards. Each inspection is a thorough physical review of a food manufacturing/processing/distribution facility to assess food safety risks in a facility.

About the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Founded in 1981 and headquartered in Verona, Virginia, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is the largest organization alleviating hunger in western and central Virginia. The Food Bank serves an average of nearly 119,000 individuals each month across 25 counties and eight cities through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester, and Verona. Together with our network of 207 community partners and 187 program sites, we’re serving record numbers of Virginians during a prolonged pandemic and its associated economic impacts. We pledge to continue innovating and adapting to secure, store, and distribute more food to more individuals, families, children, and seniors experiencing hunger. 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. For more information, visit www.brafb.org.

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