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SUMMER PROGRAM BEGINS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE

Hundreds of area children receive nutritious food every week during summer break.

VERONA, Va. – (May 25, 2022) – The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is participating in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), sponsoring six locations starting in late May, helping ensure that children, across the region, have access to nutritious food to fuel their learning, play, and growth.

One in 12 children in the Food Bank service area are food insecure. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to reach children who may not get nutritious meals at home over the school's summer break. Students receiving free or reduced-price meals at school are at particular risk.

The Food Bank provides wholesome breakfast items, vegetables, fruit, dishes with protein from meat and other sources, even fun snacks to organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs, summer school programs, churches, and recreation programs that serve children at risk of being food insecure. It is provided to all children without charge, helping children thrive and stay on track for healthy development.

The Food Bank will serve approximately 300 children through SFSP, across its 25-county service area during this summer program.

Below is a list of sites offering Summer Food Service Programs:

City	Contact Name	Email	Dates of Operation	Hours of Operation
Lynchburg	Dr. Brenda Farmer	churchesforurbanministry@gmail.com	June 27-July 27	Mon – Fri; Breakfast 9:30a-10:00a; Lunch 12:00-12:30p
Charlottesville	Bruce Boling	bruce@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org	June 20-July 28	Mon-Thurs Breakfast 8:00a-8:30a; lunch, 12:00p-12:30p
Staunton	Scott Morris	smorris@bgcwsa.org	May 31-Aug. 4	Mon-Fri;
Harrisonburg	Sara Wilfong	svcdcowner@gmail.com	June 10-Aug. 26	Mon-Fri.; breakfast, 8:30-9:00a; lunch, 11:30a-12:15p

Harrisonburg	Shamika Hayes	shayes@bgchr.org	June 21-Aug. 13	Mon-Fri; breakfast, 8:30a-9:30a; lunch, 11:30a-12:30p
Waynesboro	Scott Morris	smorris@bgcwsa.org	May 31-Aug. 4	Mon-Fr

For more details about SFSP, visit the Food Bank's website at <http://www.brafb.org/summerfoodserviceprogram>.

Families who need food assistance can access the Food Bank's "Food Finder" tool to locate local food pantries. Go to www.brafb.org/FoodFinder

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
program.intake@usda.gov

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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, the Food Bank serves 25 counties and eight cities through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Verona, and Winchester. The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank distributes nearly 29 million pounds of food annually to 118,300 people each month through a network of 203 community partners—food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, churches, and other non-profit groups— and 187 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.

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