



Blue Ridge Area

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## **Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and 22 Area Schools Partner for 11<sup>th</sup> Annual School Food Drive**

**VERONA, Va. (March 4, 2022)** – Next week, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, along with 23 local schools, will kick off the annual School Food Drive in the greater Charlottesville region. In its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the drive will run from March 7-25.

The annual event boosts food supplies at the Food Bank during the spring when donations traditionally run low. The food collected will provide meals for roughly 23,000 individuals and families served by 38 Food Bank partner pantries—soup kitchens, shelters, and nonprofits—as well as Food Bank program distributions in the Charlottesville area.

Kat Ravichandran and Emily Warren of Albemarle High School are leading the efforts this year. The students are looking to build on momentum from the 2021 drive, which resulted in 8,300 pounds of food collected – the highest total collected since 2016, providing 7,000 meals for neighbors facing hunger.

“With students and families coming together to tackle food insecurity impacting our neighbors across the region, I’m excited to see all that we can accomplish this year,” said Ravichandran. “This partnership with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and all the participating schools makes such a positive impact each year, and it’s something my peers and I look forward to.”

Participating schools for the 2022 drive include:

Agnor-Hurt Elementary School	Meriwether Lewis Elementary School
Albemarle High School	Monticello High School
Buford Middle School	Peabody School
Burnley-Moran Elementary School	Renaissance School
Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center	Scottsville Elementary School
Clark Elementary School	St. Anne’s Belfield School – Upper
The Covenant School – Upper	Stone Robinson Elementary School
The Covenant School - Lower	Stony Point Elementary School
Field School of Charlottesville	Virginia L. Murray Elementary School
Jackson-Via Elementary School	Venable Elementary School
Lakeside Middle School	Walton Middle School
	Western Albemarle High School

“Not only does the School Food Drive provide food for those experiencing hunger, it also helps students understand that fighting hunger is a community-wide effort and that



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people of any age or background can come together for a common purpose and have an impact in their community,” said Colleen Berger, volunteer and food drive coordinator for the Food Bank. “We’re immensely grateful for the support of these students, and we’re looking forward to the month ahead.”

Since the School Food Drive’s inception, participating schools have collected 73,367 pounds of food, providing 61,119 meals for families and individuals experiencing hunger. The impact proves that young people can and do make a difference in their communities.

The Food Bank’s collection barrels will be at each of the participating schools. Individuals should contact their local school administrator for more information on how to participate. To learn more about how to support the 2022 School Food Drive, go to: <https://www.brafb.org/event/school-food-drive/>.

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### **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](http://www.brafb.org).

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