



Blue Ridge Area

FOOD BANK

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Annual School Food Drive Results in 11,516 Pounds of Food Collected for Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (April 5, 2022) – With area schools back in session for in-person learning, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank’s 2022 School Food Drive, which ran from March 7-25, was the most successful in its 11-year history. Led by student food drive coordinators Kat Ravichandran and Emily Warren of Albemarle High School, more than 11,516 pounds of food were collected – enough to provide 8,849 meals for our community members facing hunger.

Kat was in her second year as the School Food Drive student coordinator while Emily participated in the role for the first time. In addition to the drive, the two are involved with a student group called “Students Working Against Hunger” to fight food insecurity in the Charlottesville region.

The two students recruited 22 schools to participate in the region-wide food drive. Stone Robinson Elementary School has the distinction of collecting the most pounds of food—1,185 pounds to be exact. Field School of Charlottesville came in at a close second with 1,178 pounds of food collected.

“The School Food Drive is a great example of what students across the region can accomplish when coming together,” said Ravichandran. “While this will be my last time as a student coordinator for the drive, I feel so proud of what we’ve accomplished this year, and past years, and look forward to hearing about the positive impact the food collected will have on our neighbors battling food insecurity.”

Participating schools for the 2022 drive include:

Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
Albemarle High School
Albemarle Montessori Children’s
Community
Buford Middle School
Burnley-Moran Elementary School
Clark Elementary School
Field School of Charlottesville
Jackson-Via Elementary School
Lakeside Middle School
Mary C. Greer Elementary School

Meriwether Lewis Elementary School
Monticello High School
Peabody School
Renaissance School
Scottsville Elementary School
St. Anne’s Belfield School – Upper
Scottsville Elementary School
Stone Robinson Elementary School
Stony Point Elementary School
Virginia L. Murray Elementary School
Venable Elementary School
Walton Middle School



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“At the Food Bank, all of us are blown away by the dedication and commitment shown by these local schools and students,” said Colleen Berger, volunteer and food drive coordinator for the Food Bank. “It is inspiring and heart warming that this year’s drive was the most successful in its history, especially considering it came amidst rising food and gas prices. The resources collected are going to make an immediate and positive impact for those who need it most.”

Since the School Food Drive’s inception, participating schools have collected 84,883 pounds of food, providing 69,968 meals for families and individuals experiencing hunger. The impact proves that young people can and do make a difference in their communities.

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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