**Standing Stronger Together: The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Rallies Community Support as Part of Hunger Action Month**

*Feeding America’s Hunger Action MonthCampaign Aims to Inspire the Public to Join the Effort to Solve Hunger*

**VERONA, Va. – August 29, 2022 –** For Hunger Action Month® this September, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank will join Feeding America to inspire people to help ensure their neighbors have enough to eat. On average, the Food Bank and its network of partners and program sites serve 109,500 individuals each month.

“Every community knows hunger, and sadly, there are too many individuals and families making the impossible choice between buying food and paying for other essential needs like housing, healthcare or utilities,” said Michael McKee, CEO of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. “But as we’ve seen time and again, our community is the Food Bank’s best resource for achieving our vision where everyone has enough to eat. We are stronger together in the effort to solve hunger.”

With the community’s help, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and its network of more than 400 partners (food pantries and program sites) distributed nearly 21 million meals, serving almost 110,000 people experiencing hunger each month from July 2021 through June 2022.

During September, people across the Blue Ridge area can get involved by volunteering, donating, and speaking up about ways to solve hunger.

* **Donate**: Every $1 can help provide four meals to those experiencing hunger.
* **Volunteer**: Both the Food Bank and its network of partners rely on volunteers to serve the 109,500 neighbors seeking food assistance each month.
* **Advocate**: Simply getting the word out about how big hunger is in our community can be remarkably powerful.

“We cannot overstate the impact our supporters’ contributions have in helping solve hunger,” added McKee. “Whether it’s a one-time donation, volunteering, or sharing a social media post about hunger in our community–no contribution is too small. These efforts add up and have a profound impact on those experiencing hunger in our service area.”

People living in every single county in the Blue Ridge region face food insecurity, according to data from Feeding America’s latest Map the Meal Gap study.

Hunger Action Month is a time for everyone to collectively act to solve hunger. You can choose to donate or advocate. You can choose to volunteer or raise awareness. You can choose to help solve hunger. Learn more about how you can join the effort to solve hunger by visiting [www.brafb.org](http://www.brafb.org).

**About 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 109,500 people per month across 25 counties and eight cities through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester, and Verona. We’re serving record numbers of Virginians during a prolonged pandemic and its associated economic impacts through our network of more than 400 community partners and program sites, which includes food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, libraries, health care clinics, community centers, and more. 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 6.6 billion meals to tens of millions of people through 60,000 partner pantries. For more information, visit [www.brafb.org](http://www.brafb.org).

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