



Blue Ridge Area

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## **Annual School Food Drive Results in 10,261 Pounds of Food Collected for Blue Ridge Area Food Bank**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (April 10, 2023)** – The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank’s 2023 School Food Drive, which ran from March 6-24, had the most school participation in its 12-year history—33 schools and organizations across the Blue Ridge. Led by student food drive coordinators Emily Warren and Lily Stendig of Albemarle High School, more than 10,261 pounds of food were collected, helping provide 8,550 meals for our community members facing hunger.

The student leaders are involved with a student group called “Students Working Against Hunger” to end food insecurity in the Charlottesville region. Emily is in her second year as a School Food Drive student coordinator, and it’s the first time for Lily in the role.

“I feel so proud of what we’ve accomplished this year. This is an example of how young people working together can really make a difference right here in our community and the world,” said Warren. “We are looking forward to growing the event next year.”

Participating schools (and organizations) for the 2023 drive included:

- Greenbrier Elementary
- Jackson-Via Elementary
- Johnson Elementary
- Venable Elementary
- Buford Middle
- Charlottesville High School
- Albemarle High School
- Charlottesville Waldorf School
- Crozet Elementary School
- Field School of Charlottesville
- Free Union Country School
- Hollymead Elementary School
- Journey Middle School
- Locust Grove Primary School
- Locust Grove Elementary School
- Greer Elementary School
- Monticello High School
- Murray Elementary School
- Niños and Nature
- Peabody School
- Renaissance School
- Staunton Montessori School
- Stone-Robinson Elementary School
- Stony Point Elementary School
- Tandem Friends School
- Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
- The Covenant School
- Woodbrook Elementary School
- Clark Elementary
- St. Anne’s Belfield
- Henley Middle School
- Congregation Beth Israel
- Charlottesville YMCA

School Food Drive winners were determined by the number of pounds collected per



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student (pounds collected / student body population). The 2023 winners include (broken out by school classes):

- Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Niños and Nature
- Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Free Union Country Day School
- Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Murray Elementary School (collected second most pounds overall)
  
- Elementary/Middle 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Waldorf School
- Elementary/Middle 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Peabody School
  
- Middle 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Field School
- Middle 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Henley Middle School
- Middle 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Journey Middle School
  
- Middle/Upper 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Tandem Friends
- Middle/Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Covenant School (collected third most pounds overall)
  
- High 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Renaissance School
- High 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Monticello High School
- High 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Albemarle High School

While Stone-Robinson Elementary School did not place, it has the distinction of collecting the most pounds of food—1,056 pounds. Additionally, they raised hundreds of dollars for the Food Bank separately through a lemonade stand during the food drive duration.

“We are so proud of the effort and dedication to the community shown by these students and local schools,” said Brynna Strand, volunteer and food drive coordinator for the Food Bank. “This food drive comes at an important time, as food and gasoline costs have risen. The food and grocery items collected here will make an immediate and positive impact for those who need it most in our community.”

Since the School Food Drive’s inception, participating schools have collected 95,144 pounds of food, providing 79,286 meals for families and individuals experiencing hunger. This annual food drive shows how young people working together for a common cause make a measurable difference in their communities.

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### **About the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank**

Founded in 1981 and headquartered in Verona, Virginia, the Blue Ridge Area Food



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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, 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 supporting more than 200 food banks across the United States, helping provide 5.2 billion meals to tens of millions of people through 60,000 agency partners. For more information, visit [www.brafb.org](http://www.brafb.org).

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