



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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All Four Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Distribution Centers Receive Highest Food Safety Rating

VERONA, Va. (June 12, 2023) – The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank’s four distribution centers were recently awarded the highest rating, Superior, from AIB International (AIB).

This annual audit resulted in each Blue Ridge Area Food Bank warehouse scoring in the 900s on a 1,000-point scale. A passing score is 700 and above. Facilities that score in the top 25% receive a Recognition of High Achievement – Superior.

Auditors evaluate an organization’s operational compliance with food safety standards. Each voluntary AIB inspection is a thorough physical review of a food manufacturing/processing/distribution facility to assess food safety risks.

During this past year, the Food Bank received, stored, and distributed nearly 25 million pounds of food (including 7.2 million pounds of produce) through partner pantries, program site partners, and the Food Bank’s mobile programs, serving, on average, over 109,500 people per month. To keep up with growing demand during these high-inflation times and to meet its strategic focus on sourcing nutritious foods, the Food Bank is handling more, and a greater variety of, food. Safeguarding the distribution centers’ inventories of shelf-stable and perishable foods is of the highest importance to the Food Bank.

“We’re very proud of our Operations team here at the Food Bank. This is a testament to the high-quality work and commitment our team displays every single day. We know it is vital that our guests, partners, and community trust the quality of food we provide. These Superior ratings from AIB, for each of our facilities, offer evidence of our commitment to food safety, health, and cleanliness,” said Chief Operating Officer Dave Kraft.

Images and b-roll can be found here: <https://www.brafb.org/media-resources/newsroom/>

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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 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 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.