

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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SUMMER PROGRAM BEGINS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE

*Hundreds of area children receive nutritious food every week
during summer break.*

Verona, VA – (June 6, 2023)

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is participating in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), sponsoring nine locations starting in late May, helping ensure that children, across the region, have access to nutritious food to fuel their learning, play, and growth.

One in 12 children in Virginia are food insecure. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to reach children who may not get nutritious meals at home over the school summer break. Students receiving free or reduced-price meals when school is in session are at particular risk.

The Food Bank provides wholesome breakfast items, vegetables, fruit, dishes with protein from meat and other sources, and snacks to organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs, summer school programs, churches, and recreation programs that serve children at risk of being food insecure. It is provided to all children without charge, helping children thrive and stay on track for healthy development.

The Food Bank will serve approximately 300 children through SFSP, across its 25-county service area during this summer program.

Below is a list of sites offering Summer Food Service Programs:

Name	Address	Start Date	Days Serving
Waynesboro Boys and Girls Club	302 E Main St, Waynesboro	5/30/2023-7/28/2023	M-F, 8-8:30 & 12-12:30
Elkton Boys and Girls Club	302 West B St., Elkton	6/20/2023-8/20/2023	M-F, 8-8:30&12-12:30
Shenandoah Valley Child Development Center	2867 W Mosby Rd, Harrisonburg	6/12/2023-8/11/2023	M-F, 8-9 & 11-12
Staunton Boys and Girls Club	1114 West Johnson Street, Staunton	5/30/2023-7/28/2023	M-F 8:30-8:45 & 11:30-12
Abundant Life	3101 Fontaine Ave Ext, Charlottesville	6/20/2023-8/11/2023	M-Th, 8-8:30 & 12-12:30
Simms Center Boys and Girls Club	620 Simms Avenue, Harrisonburg	6/20/2023-8/11/2023	M-F, 11-12 & 2-3
South River Boys and Girls Club	2101 Elm Ave, Grottoes	6/20/2023-8/11/2023	M-F, 11:30-12:15 & 3-3:30
Plains Boys and Girls Club	225 American Legion Road, Timberville	6/20/2023-8/20/2023	M-F, 12-1
Charlie's Guiding Light Early Learning Center	15 Cave St., Luray	6/05/2023-8/25/2023	M-F, 9-10 & 12-1

For more details about SFSP, visit the Food Bank's website at <http://www.brafb.org/summerfoodserviceprogram>.

Families who need food assistance can access the Food Bank's "Food Finder" tool to locate local food pantries. Go to www.brafb.org/FoodFinder

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to

inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
program.intake@usda.gov

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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 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.

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