

Hope Is on the Table —

Thanks to You

Annual Impact Report

July 2024 – June 2025



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Our Mission Matters More Than Ever

This is an important moment in the history of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. As Chair of the Board of Directors, I find myself reflecting on a year marked by both challenge and change—and I'm looking ahead with confidence and hope.

Across our communities, the need for food assistance remains extraordinarily high. Economic uncertainty and policy shifts continue to affect how many of our neighbors access the support they need. These headwinds are real, and they remind us why our mission matters more than ever.

At the same time, the Food Bank is embracing change. We are thrilled to welcome Kari Jorgensen Diener as our new Chief Executive Officer. Kari brings a wealth of experience, energy, and vision to this role, and we are excited for the journey ahead. You can learn more about her on page 8 of this report.

Through all the change, one constant shines brightly: **your support**. The unwavering generosity we experience continues to uplift us. Thanks to

our dedicated donors, steadfast partners, tireless volunteers, and hard-working employees, we *are solving hunger every day*.

Our commitment remains resolute. The current five-year strategic plan (through 2028) will continue to serve as our compass, guiding us through these challenging times with a clear vision. This Food Bank strongly believes that a better life starts with a full plate, and we are well equipped to navigate what lies ahead.

The stories and numbers on the following pages illustrate the tangible impact you have made. You are the reason we can meet the rising need with compassion and resolve.

Thank you,



Kim Blosser
Chair, Board of Directors



Cover photo: With his grandson (age 5) by his side, **Donald** (age 61) visits Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP) food pantry in Winchester, a Food Bank partner. Despite facing health challenges, this former plumber remains a pillar of strength for his family. When asked what keeps him going, Donald attributed his resilience to his faith and boundless love for his grandchildren, who live with him.



Our Collective Impact: By the Numbers

July 2024 – June 2025

181,900

Total unique (unduplicated) guests*

32 million

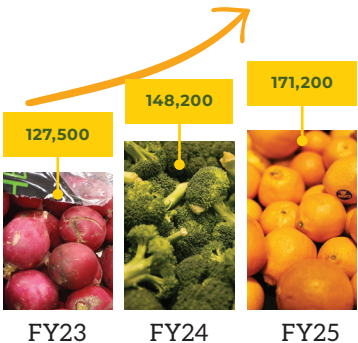
Pounds of food distributed

171,200

People served each month, on average

10 million

Pounds of produce distributed



27 million

Meals provided

*The unduplicated number of people served is a conservative and low estimate; not all partners use the same method of data collection at this time.

Hope Is on the Table— Because of You

In the Blue Ridge region, 1 in 9 of our neighbors experiences food insecurity. Thanks to your compassion and support, we are able to serve more people than ever.

1 in 3 Food Bank guests is a child

Beth, a single mom to 4-year-old Connor, faced an uphill battle this year: her full-time restaurant wages weren't enough to support her family, especially with changes to SNAP benefits. So, she made her first visit to a local food pantry, not knowing what to expect.

Beth was welcomed by kind volunteers, and she was able to shop and pick out the groceries she most wanted.

"This is kind of nice," she whispered, as this allowed her to keep striving for a stable future for her son.

The cost of living in Virginia—a single mom's reality

For many Virginia families, making ends meet is a daily struggle. Consider the budget of a single, working mom with a 4-year-old in Virginia with an annual salary of \$40,000 before taxes.



Beth

Example Monthly Budget

Income:	\$3,300
Expenses	
Housing (rent & utilities)	\$1,800
Childcare	1,100
Food	750
Transportation	500
Healthcare	300
Other necessities	400
Total expenses	\$4,850
BUDGET SHORTFALL:	-\$1,550



Vanessa

Providing a lifeline for seniors

Vanessa worked as a nurse for 45 years and now frequents a local food pantry. After dedicating her life to taking care of others, it's not what she thought her retirement would look like. "I put so much into the [retirement] system, and now I'm here because I can't afford groceries. It's not fair. The prices in the store have become so high. I'm happy that I'm able to get my groceries here. It means that the money I do have, I can spend on other necessities."

Guest Snapshot: By the Numbers

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025

52,267

Unique (unduplicated) first-time guests



29%

of all visits were
from **first-time**
guests

171,200

Total visits in an average month



17%

of all visits
nourished **seniors**

32%

of all visits
nourished **children**

How Often Do Guests Visit? — When They Need it Most —

1%
WEEKLY

23%
1-2 TIMES A MONTH

52%
LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH

24%
ONCE A YEAR

Together, We Are Solving Hunger Every Day

We make a profound difference in the lives of tens of thousands of neighbors, and this is what happens when a community unites for good. Our mission thrives because of a strong network of more than 400 partner pantries and program sites across the region, often operated by dedicated volunteers.

We are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our partners

No matter what challenges come their way our partner network remains committed. In a world that's constantly changing, they adapt with resilience and compassion, welcoming guests with open arms.



“Thanks to our vital partnership with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, we were able to provide food for 12,299 families last year. We are incredibly grateful for their support in helping us ensure everyone has enough to eat.”

— Reverend Won Un, Central Feeding Ministry at the Central United Methodist Church in Staunton

Partner Snapshot: By the Numbers

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025



218 **11 NEW!**

Food pantry, soup kitchen, and shelter partners

202

Food Bank program sites, including:

- 29** Food Pharmacy sites
- 15** Mobile Food Pantry and Neighborhood Produce Market sites
- 67** Senior nutrition program sites
- 81** Child nutrition program sites **23 NEW!**

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Food Bank operations

Also critical to our mission are our extraordinary volunteers with their hands-on dedication, warm smiles, and countless donated hours. An interconnected web of support—the combined efforts of every volunteer in our warehouses, offices, and out in the field—enables us to go further, reach deeper, and nourish our neighbors. Together, we aim to be an unstoppable force for good. This shared commitment is what puts hope on the table.



Join Us!

www.brafb.org/get-involved/



**Volunteer Contributions:
By the Numbers**

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025

27,570

Total hours contributed by all volunteers

1,776

Active volunteers (unduplicated)

14

Full-time positions (staff equivalency)*



*We use the standard value of volunteer time in Virginia, provided by independentsector.org.



“As a volunteer I’m proud to set a bit of time aside to give from my heart. Seeing the overwhelming need in some areas and knowing people will have food to eat makes it worth it. Making a difference and knowing it all goes where it needs to be is a great feeling!”

— Petra, Site Coordinator, Mobile Food Pantry in Timberville

CEO Kari Diener
volunteers at a
Neighborhood
Produce Market in
Harrisonburg.



A Legacy to Build on: **Welcoming a New Leader**



This year marks a meaningful moment in the life of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. As we bid a heartfelt farewell to Michael McKee, whose leadership over the past 12 years helped shape a stronger, more resilient organization, we look forward with confidence and optimism.

With Kari Jorgensen Diener as our new CEO, the Food Bank is in capable hands.

Drawing on more than 25 years of leadership experience in humanitarian organizations around the world, Kari brings a powerful combination of global perspective, strategic policy expertise, and a rigorous research background, anchored by a steadfast commitment to advancing innovative solutions for food insecurity within local communities.

She is the right person to carry on the legacy we have built together.

Kari discovered her passion for humanitarian work at an early age. Raised in a family that valued volunteerism, she recalls collecting canned goods for school food drives as a child, helping with Habitat for Humanity, or playing music for residents at a local retirement community.

“As an adult, I have endeavored to find ways to give back to my community whenever possible, and to bring a focus on mutual respect and service to others in everything that I do,” Kari said.

“I regularly reflect on these values as a north star for my work and interactions with others. My role as CEO will also reflect this commitment.”

“

“I am excited about the Food Bank’s strategic priorities, including its focus on healthy food.”

— Kari Jorgensen Diener

While leadership is changing, our course remains steady.

The Food Bank will continue to pursue its five-year strategic plan—expanding access to nutritious food, strengthening partnerships, and innovating to meet the evolving needs of our neighbors while ensuring the sustainability of the Food Bank.

“I am excited about the Food Bank’s strategic priorities, including its focus on healthy food and its commitment to supporting household financial stability,” Kari said.

The work ahead is vital—and with Kari’s leadership, and the unwavering dedication of our staff, partners, donors, and volunteers, we remain committed to our work, fueled by the belief that everyone should have enough to eat.



An Example of Innovative Partnerships: Food Is Medicine

We believe food is medicine, and we work to improve health in many ways.

One example is the **Food Pharmacy** program, helping neighbors access the nutritious food they need when and where they receive healthcare. This year, we forged new partnerships with free clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). These collaborations address both health disparities and food insecurity by reaching vulnerable populations in areas experiencing gaps in healthcare.

We operate 29 Food Pharmacy sites through several healthcare partnerships.

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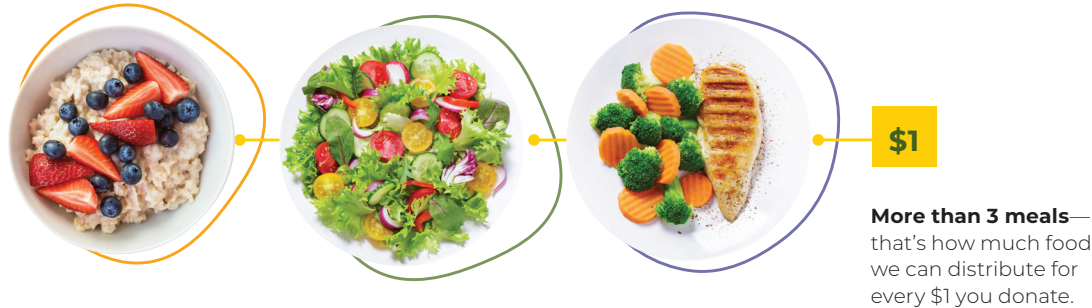
“Our partnership with the Food Bank has helped fill the gap in our food desert and improve health literacy levels. The Food Pharmacy at our medical center has been able to provide patients with nutritious foods at a convenient location and nutrition education during their visit.”



— Emily Lagerquist, Community Health Worker, Blue Ridge Medical Center (FQHC), Nelson County

Earning Your Trust

By the Numbers



95¢

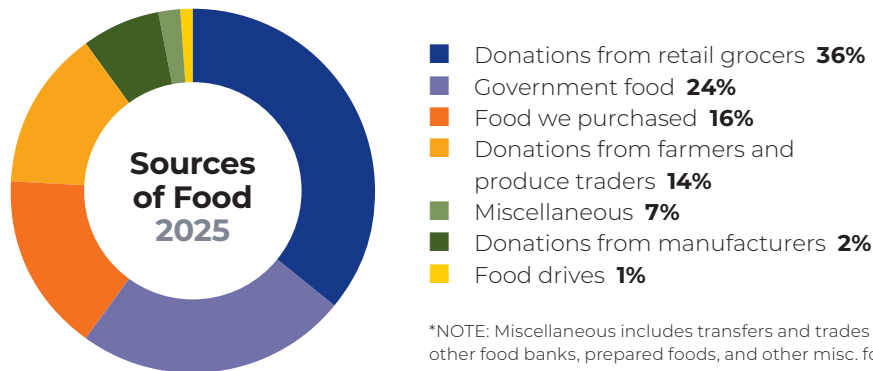
How much of every dollar the Food Bank spends that is directed to food and programs to distribute food.*

*We use Charity Navigator's formula.

5¢

The balance is used for administrative and fundraising expenses.

Where Our Food Comes From



*NOTE: Miscellaneous includes transfers and trades with other food banks, prepared foods, and other misc. food.

Platinum Transparency 2025
Candid.

PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY RATING

The highest possible recognition earned from Guidestar (now Candid), demonstrating our commitment to full transparency.

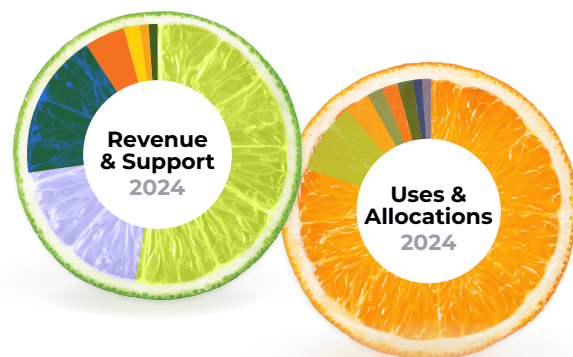
Charity Navigator
FOUR-STAR

4-STAR RATING

Recognition earned for 16 consecutive years from Charity Navigator. According to their rubric this means we exceed or meet best practices and industry standards across almost all areas they measure.

Financial Summary

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024 – Audited



2024 REVENUE & SUPPORT

Donated Food non-government sources (53%)	\$40,969,088
Donated Food from USDA (20%)	\$15,013,475
Donor Contributions (18%)	\$13,928,687
Government Grants (5%)	\$3,967,801
Partner Membership and Handling Fees (2%)	\$1,867,377
Investment Earnings and Gains (1%)	\$531,718
Other (1%)	\$126,177

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT \$76,404,323

2024 USES & ALLOCATIONS

Food Acquisition (80%)	\$61,424,882*
Delivery of Food, Programs, and Services (9%)	\$6,982,482
Fundraising Expense (3%)	\$2,210,240
Other Operation and Administrative Expense (2%)	\$1,452,002
Capital Expenditures (2%)	\$1,592,896
Donor Contributions Restricted to Endowment (2%)	\$1,393,899
Pledged Commitments (1%)	\$621,238
Addition to Reserves (1%)	\$726,684

TOTAL USES \$76,404,323

*31% of all food was purchased by the Food Bank; the value was \$5.4 million and was funded by donor contributions.

2024 TOTAL ASSETS \$41,789,632

2024 TOTAL LIABILITIES \$2,731,380

ENDING NET ASSETS \$39,058,252

Without donor restriction \$35,471,359

With donor restriction \$ 3,586,893

Audited financial statements are also posted on the Food Bank's website and are available upon request.

About Reserves and Endowment: As the backbone provider of charitable food assistance in this region, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank maintains significant financial reserves to preserve services and respond to increased demand during public emergencies and economic shocks. As of June 30, 2024, these were the balances in each reserve account:

Operating Reserve	\$4,867,900	The Board of Directors requires four months of funding on hand for operating expenses, in case of emergency.
Capital Reserve	\$4,737,100	Capital reserves invest in facilities, trucks, and equipment to store and transport millions of pounds of food.
Long Term Investments/ Endowment	\$8,788,600	Endowed funds are invested and generate annual income to cover the cost of food and other operating expenses.
Short Term Reserve	\$4,645,800	Discretionary funds used in consultation with the Board of Directors, to respond to emerging and emergency partner and guest needs

NOTE: The audited financials include the value of donated and purchased food. Donated product on hand at fiscal year-end is valued by using the national wholesale value of one pound of food as determined by Feeding America. Food donations and distributions of donated product are recorded at the weighted average wholesale value in effect during the year.

Board of Directors 2025–2026

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Pastor
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KARI JORGENSEN DIENER
Ex-Officio



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Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK

Everyone should have enough to eat.



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Our **VISION** is nourishing food and good health—for everyone, every day.

Our **CORE BELIEFS** are that hunger is unacceptable, that everyone deserves access to enough food, that food sustains life and nourishes health, and that we are called to serve without judgment.

Our **MISSION** is to improve food security through equitable access to good nutrition and the resources that support health and well-being.

**A better life
begins with
a full plate.**
Thank you
for your support!

