

# Full Plates. Brighter Tomorrows.

## Thank You.

Annual Impact Report

July 2025 - June 2026



Blue Ridge Area  
**FOOD BANK**

PARTNER  
FOOD BANK OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

# A Year of Unprecedented Need

Last year, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and our partners served more guests than ever in our 45-year history, averaging 178,700 guest visits each month.

Low wages, high rent and home prices, reduction in federal benefits, and climbing fuel and healthcare prices all contribute to the rise in food insecurity numbers. Many of our neighbors face difficult trade-offs every day as they balance rising costs for food and other essentials.

Our mission *and your support* have never been more vital.

We are proud of the way the Food Bank and our crucial network of community partners and volunteers come together to meet the growing need. Together, we are building a system that helps feed well over a hundred thousand of our neighbors, and forges a path to help guests overcome challenges and achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

Your generous support makes this work possible, and I hope you feel proud of the difference you've made for neighbors across the Blue Ridge. After all, thriving, healthy communities begin with nourishing food.

With gratitude,



*Kari Diener*  
**Kari Diener**  
Chief Executive Officer



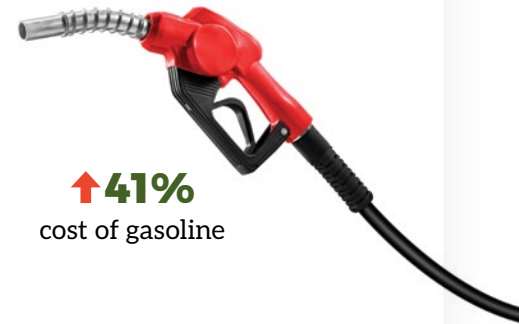
*Kimberly Blosser*  
**Kim Blosser**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
President, Laurel Ridge  
Community College

Cover photo: Cynthia, a local senior, relies on Food Bank partner Red Truck Ministry to access fresh, nutritious food in her community. When her SNAP benefits were recently reduced by half, this assistance became a vital source of support.

## Over the Past Year



**↑32%**  
cost of fresh tomatoes



**↑41%**  
cost of gasoline



**↓100,000**  
Virginians stopped receiving SNAP  
benefits despite rising need because  
federal food assistance was reduced.

William lives in a motor home with his loyal spaniel, Coco. A roofer by trade, he's been on disability since a neck injury, and he visits a local food pantry to help make ends meet. "Without this food, I don't know what I would eat," he shared.

## Our Collective Impact

July 2025 – June 2026

**183,200**

unique guests\*

**46,100**

unique first-time guests  
(1 in 4 guests)

**178,700**

people served each month,  
on average, including:

**36,000 seniors**

served each month,  
on average (1 in 5 guests)

**60,000 children**

served each month,  
on average (1 in 3 guests)

**33 million**

pounds of food distributed, including:

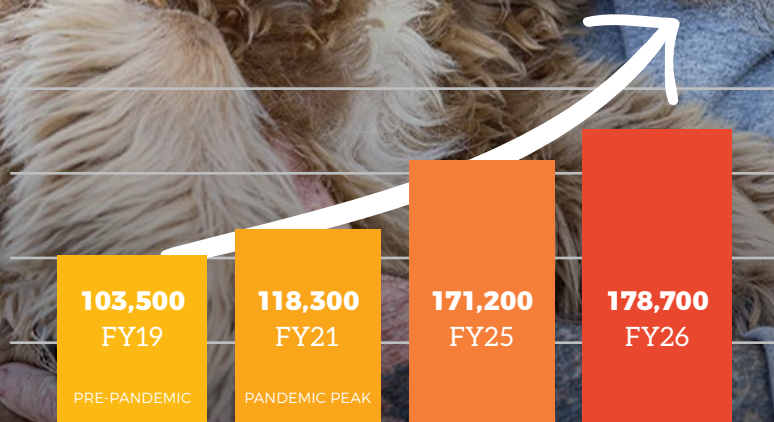
**11 million**

pounds of produce

**28 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.

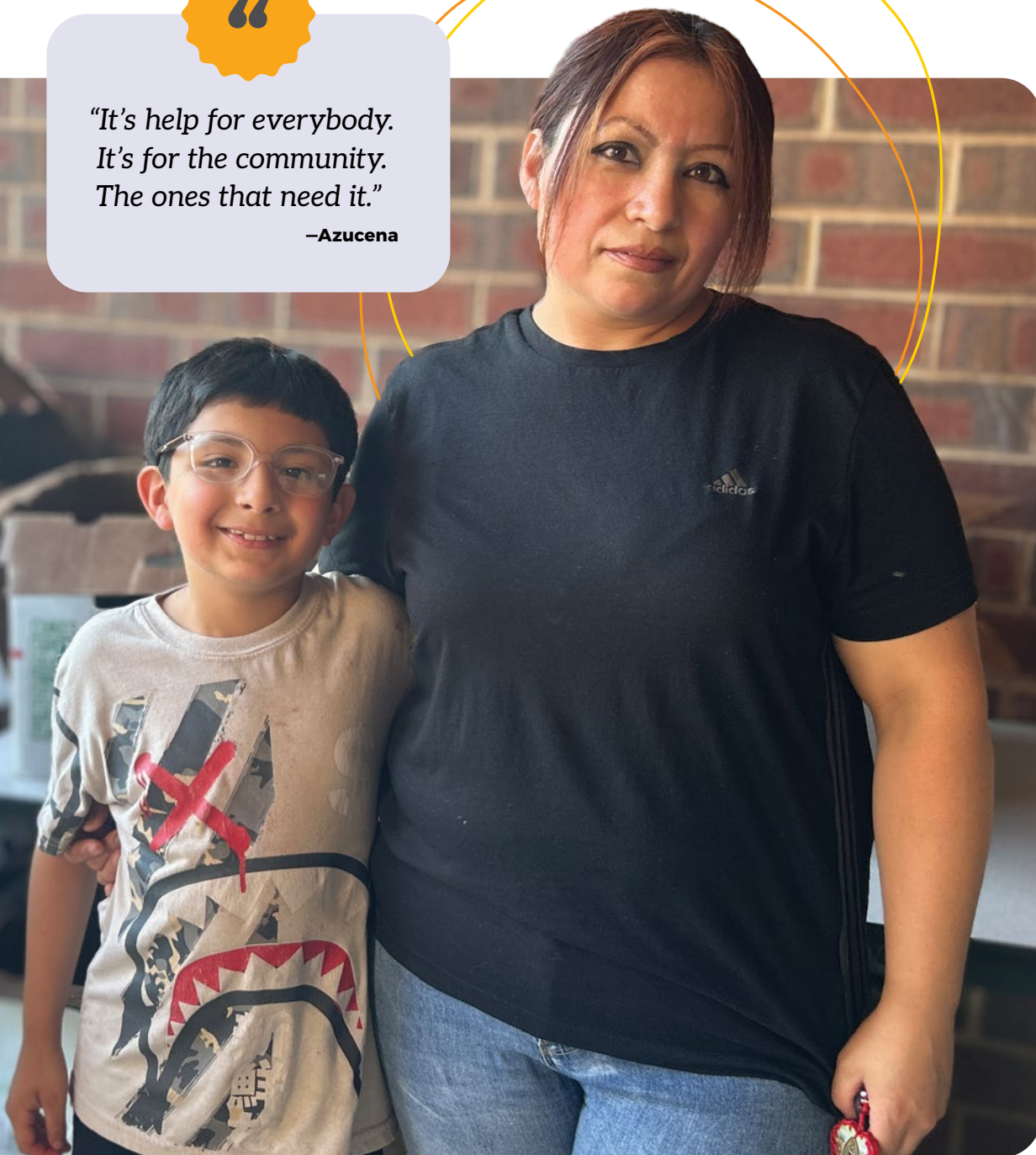


**People served each month,  
on average**

“

*“It’s help for everybody.  
It’s for the community.  
The ones that need it.”*

*—Azucena*



## Nourishing Our Neighbors

As high prices make it harder for caregivers to support their growing children and seniors to manage their health, you stepped in to nourish and uplift your community.

### Meet Azucena

Azucena began visiting the School Food Pantry at Broadway High School 2 years ago when her eldest son, Alexis, was a student. He graduated and is working as a carpenter. Now, Azucena attends the distribution with Fernando, her 9-year-old, beside her.

Her husband works in construction—when the weather cooperates. In winter, it is too cold for him to work, and their household relies on her income alone.

“[The Food Pantry] is a lot of help,” she explained. Her visits to the School Food Pantry mean nourishing food for her family. She often turns the vegetables she gets into soup with “very tasty” meatballs.



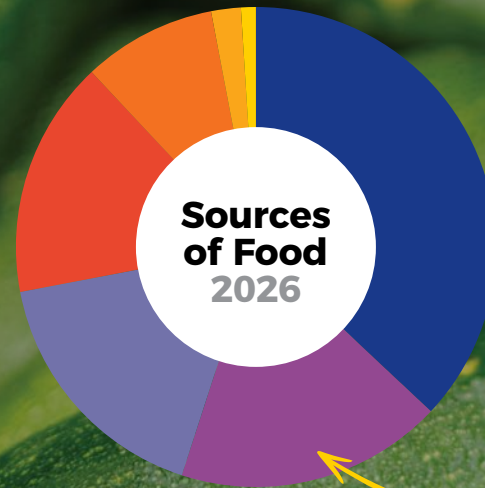
## Meet Susan

After a challenging year of health setbacks, Susan, a senior living in Fluvanna County, recently discovered her local food pantry. There, she's able to get food to support her health needs. But she says what matters most is being able to come out and talk to people.

"It took me the longest time to realize that there were good, kindhearted people out there who didn't judge me," she said.

Divorced after 40 years of marriage and grieving the loss of her son, she is determined to be independent. The food and sense of connection she finds at the pantry helps:

***"From the bottom of my heart, for the first time in a long time, I feel like somebody."***



## Sources of Food

- Donations from Retail Grocers **37%**
- Food We Purchased\*\* **18%**
- Government Food **17%**
- Donations from Farmers and Produce Traders **16%**
- Donations from Manufacturers **9%**
- Miscellaneous **2%**
- Food Drives **1%**

\*\* Thanks to your generous support, last year, the Food Bank spent \$7.2 million on food acquisition. In part this was to fill the gap created by a reduction in USDA food supplies and to help partners meet the surge in demand during the extended government shutdown. We also used financial donations to purchase and distribute more than 400,000 pounds of healthy protein at no cost to our network.



## Food We Distribute

- Shelf-stable **51%**
- Fresh Produce **33%**
- Perishable Food (Including Proteins) **16%**

# Many Hands, One Mission

We are grateful for the hard work and the heart our dedicated volunteers and network of community partners contribute every day.

“

*“Communities become stronger because you choose to invest in the things that make this work possible. Your generosity is present in every distribution line, every home delivery, every training session, and every moment of dignity offered to someone in need. You are part of every success story, and we are truly grateful!”*

– Summer Lindsay, Executive Director, Empowering Culpeper



“

*“I’ve had friends who didn’t always have what they needed. It’s been a struggle for them, and it [stinks] to watch people struggle. So, if there was something I could do to help, I wanted to.”*

– Virgil, School Food Pantry student volunteer



## Partner Snapshot

**220** — **19 NEW THIS YEAR!**

pantries, soup kitchens, shelters

**AND 204**

program sites, including:

**33** Food Pharmacy sites

**22** mobile distribution sites

**58** senior nutrition program sites

**91** child nutrition program sites

## Volunteer Contributions

**28,120**

total hours contributed by Food Bank volunteers

**1,802**

active volunteers (unduplicated)

**15**

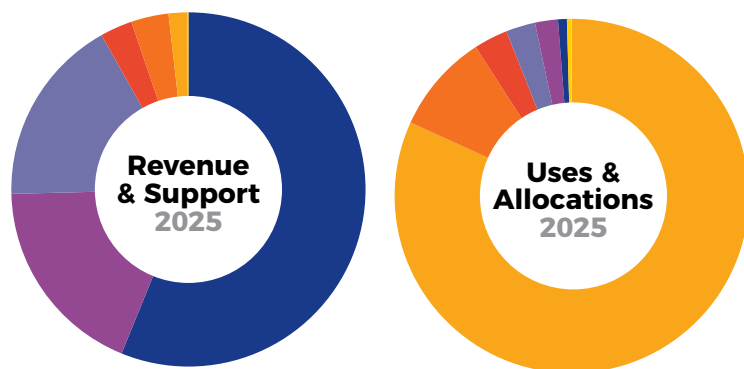
full-time positions (staff equivalency)\*

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



# Financial Summary

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025 – Audited



## Revenue & Support 2025

|                                                |              |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Donated food from non-government sources (56%) | \$42,152,838 |
| Donated food from USDA (18%)                   | \$13,843,724 |
| Donor contributions (17%)                      | \$12,936,057 |
| Partner membership and handling fees (3%)      | \$2,203,724  |
| Government grants (3%)                         | \$2,571,850  |
| Investment earnings and gains (2%)             | \$1,267,172  |
| Other (1%)                                     | \$85,063     |

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT \$75,060,428

## Uses & Allocations 2025

|                                                  |               |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Food acquisition (82%)                           | \$61,400,503* |
| Delivery of food, programs, and services (9%)    | \$6,821,070   |
| Fundraising expense (3%)                         | \$2,328,602   |
| Addition to reserves (3%)                        | \$2,009,507   |
| Other operation and administrative expense (2%)  | \$1,568,730   |
| Capital expenditures (1%)                        | \$607,317     |
| Donor contributions restricted to endowment (0%) | \$295,614     |
| Pledged commitments (0%)                         | \$29,085      |

TOTAL USES & ALLOCATIONS \$75,060,428

\*16% of all food was purchased by the Food Bank; the value in FY25 was \$5.4 million.

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2025 Total Assets         | \$44,636,735 |
| 2025 Total Liabilities    | \$2,816,741  |
| Ending Net Assets         | \$41,819,994 |
| Without donor restriction | \$38,296,124 |
| With donor restriction    | \$3,523,870  |

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



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.

**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 1 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.

5¢

The balance is used for administrative and fundraising expenses.

## Board of Directors 2026-2027

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President

Laurel Ridge Community College

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VICE-CHAIR

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Pastor

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Centra Health

KARI JORGENSEN DIENER

Ex-Officio



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Verona, VA 24482

540-248-3663



Headquarters:  
P.O. Box 937 | Verona, VA 24482



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.

Thriving, healthy communities begin with nourishing food.  
**Thank you** for your support!

