

Together, We're Setting a Place at the Table for Everyone

With Harrisonburg City Council



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK

Everyone should have enough to eat.

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Carmen & Alfred

- Guardians of 2 grandkids
- Pick up for 7 families
- Love the produce



[Our grandson] doesn't like meat. So, we always have to have a lot of fresh vegetables, or he would just be lost.





MISSION

To improve food security through equitable access to good nutrition and the resources that support health and well-being.

VISION

Nourishing food and good health—for everyone, every day.





A **BOLD** New Path

The Food Bank's Strategic Direction (2023-2028)



Common Challenges Guests Face



Language barriers

Guests speak more than 50 languages



Lack of transportation

40% of guests report this barrier to getting help



Special dietary needs

Half of guest households report this need, for health reasons

We're working with our guests and partners to innovate solutions to improve access to nutritious food—for everyone, every day.



What Is 'Food Insecurity'?



- A lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active and healthy life.
- It can be a temporary situation for a household, or it can last a long time.
- It is one way we can measure how many people cannot afford food.

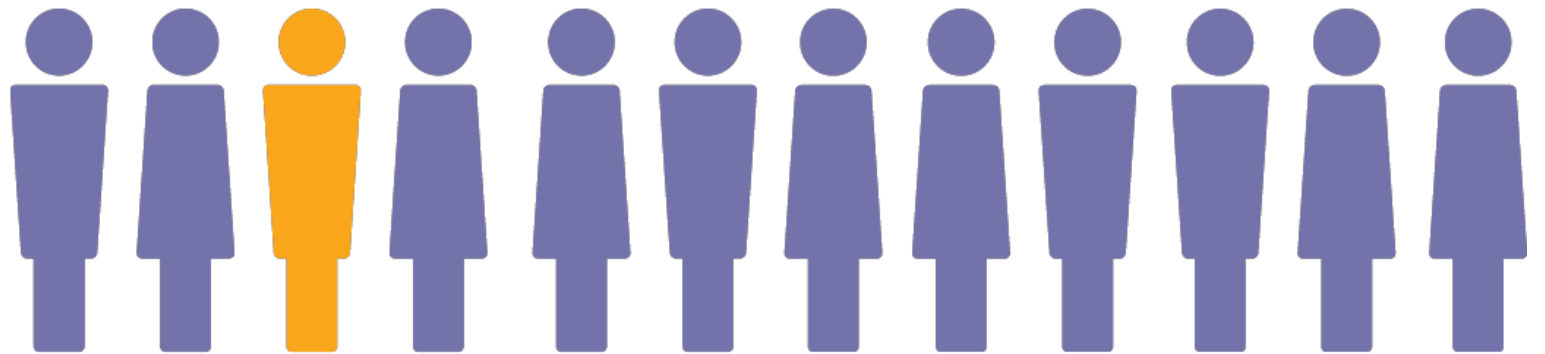


1 in 12...



1 of every 12 children

**1 in 12 people in our area
experience food insecurity.**



1 of every 12 neighbors





30 miles

If we lined up the average number of monthly guests, shoulder to shoulder, they would create a line stretching 30 miles.



How We Work, Together





Impact

We distributed 27.4 million pounds of food last year.

That's the equivalent of nearly 23 million meals.





“We have to stretch [our budget]... So, this is good for me.”

Nateil Lee, Guest



So, it is harder trying to provide. But, we have to stretch [our budget].
[our budget]. So, this is good for me.

Investing in and Empowering Our Community Partners

\$4.6 million+ to food pantries and programs to help improve or expand services



Sourcing Food for Nutrition and Health





Children

- 32% of those we serve are children.
- Over 40,000 children served monthly.
- One of every 12 children in Virginia experience hunger.





Seniors

- 19% of our guests are seniors.
- Seniors who are food insecure are more likely to have chronic health conditions, like depression, diabetes, and heart attacks.





New Public Benefits Outreach Initiative

Supporting household financial stability



Harrisonburg and Rockingham County At a Glance

JULY 2022 – JULY 2023	Harrisonburg	Rockingham
# of unique guests served	18,061	2,684
# of meals distributed	1,629,697	1,028,106
# community partners	12	7
Average monthly participation in children's nutrition programs	1,163	470
Average monthly participation in neighborhood produce market	1,335	N/A



Spotlight: Good Food School Market

Harrisonburg High School

- Very first and longest running GFMS
- 20-30 pounds of food per person
- 61,532 pounds of food last year with more than half being produce.
- Runs 1x per month.

Broadway High School

- Second longest running
- 20-30 pounds of food per person
- 36,528 pound of food last year with more than half being produce.
- Runs weekly + bi-monthly produce pop-ups for parents.





Core Beliefs

- Hunger is unacceptable
- Everyone deserves access to enough food
- Food sustains life and nourishes health
- We are called to serve without judgment





How to Help

Visit www.brafb.org:

- Volunteer
- Donate funds
- Host a food or fund drive
- Subscribe and stay informed
- Be an advocate





“I wanted to find a way to use my creativity and caring nature to give back to others in my local community.”

Addison (11),
Food Bank supporter



Thank you!

When you give food, you nourish health—a simple act with a profound impact.





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