

Our Mission

To feed the hungry through a network of community organizations in central and western Virginia and to engage our communities in the fight to end hunger locally and nationally.

About the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Established in 1981, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank is the largest organization alleviating hunger in western and central Virginia.

We serve 25 counties and nine cities on either side of the Blue Ridge through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester and Verona.



Our Branches

Shenandoah Valley Area branch & headquarters office (Verona): Serving Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro and counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham

Lord Fairfax Area branch (Winchester): Serving Winchester and counties of Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah and Warren

Thomas Jefferson Area branch (Charlottesville): Serving Charlottesville and counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Fluvanna, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock

Lynchburg area branch: Serving Lynchburg and Bedford and counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell and Nelson

Serving **118,600** people each month

24.8 million pounds distributed (20.6 million meals)

Serving **7,530** children each month through after school programs

208 partner agencies (food pantries, soup kitchens & shelters)

How We Work

We help people in need through a mostly volunteer network of partner agencies—food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, and other non-profits. Most of these agencies receive 80% or more of their food supply through the Food Bank.

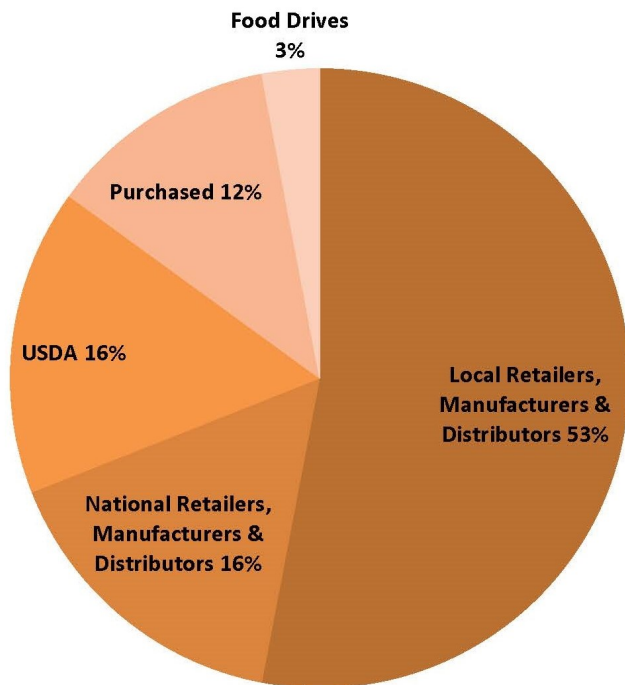
In addition to distributing food through community partner agencies, we operate the following outreach programs for children, families and seniors:

- **Family BackPack Program** feeds families and children on weekends and school holidays.
- **Kids Cafe™** for afterschool programs serving snacks and meals.
- **Operation Angel Food** for preschoolers.
- **Summer Food Service Program** for children on summer break.
- **Super Pantry**, in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, to educate families about nutrition and food preparation.
- **Reaching Elderly and Challenged Households (REACH)** for seniors and homebound adults.
- **Mobile Food Pantry (MFP)** provides fresh and nonperishable food delivery in rural areas.

Learn more about our programs online at brafb.org.

Our Food

We obtain our food through national, regional and local sources. We're also progressively securing more fresh produce, meat, dairy and other perishable goods through farmers, gleaning organizations and other local and national growers. Last year, we distributed 5.4 million pounds of fresh produce.



"I sacrifice. I sometimes have problems paying my light bill. I just don't have the money to do it. Without the food pantry, we would have a really hard time."

-THELMA, AUNT & LEGAL GUARDIAN OF FIVE BOYS

Food Insecurity in the Blue Ridge Area

- Our clients make tough choices every day between buying food and paying for other necessities such as utilities, rent or mortgage, gas for their cars and medical care.
- 11.9% of Virginians struggle with hunger. 146,770, or 10%, live in the Blue Ridge area.
- 1 out of every 6 children—or 53,690 children in our service area—struggles with hunger. In Virginia, 16.8% of children are food insecure.
- Seniors, more than any other group, are relying with increasing frequency on charitable food assistance.