

# Hunger Bits

*Doug Sensabaugh, Hunger Action Coordinator  
Shenandoah Presbytery – No. 12*

**We give gladly to help with hunger relief in many ways. Here are some of the programs we support through our contributions.**

***Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.*** Do you know the Blue Ridge Food Bank distributes food across a 12,000 mile area of our presbytery? The Mountaineer Food Bank supports food distribution throughout the West Virginia portions of the presbytery. Because of the recent disasters, all food banks have sent food to the effected areas to feed the hungry. That has left many empty shelves and many local pantries without enough food. Additional funds are needed to replenish the shelves and to continue providing the food programs supporting so many in our areas.

***Church World Service*** plays an important role in disaster relief all over the world. Since 1946, CWS has been the relief development and refuge assistance ministry that supports sustainable self-help development, meets emergency needs, aids refugees, and helps address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness. Through the popular CROP walks in our communities, CWS has raised awareness of the needs of the hungry in our neighborhoods. But CWS also helps us focus on the needs of our global neighbors through their Gift-of-the-Heart Kits as well. Tools of Hope and Blanket Sunday remind us of all ways in which we can put our faith to work in service to those in need.

***The Volunteer Farm*** sends thanks all 1,002 volunteers who helped with the 2005 season. Even though it was a poor growing year, with local farmers reporting a 30% reduction in crops due to the drought, the Farm still successfully raised 56,000 pounds of vegetables that were donated to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. And because of these efforts, the Volunteer Farm has been awarded the Harry Chapin Self-Reliance grant of \$5,000 in collaboration with the World Hunger Year. The grant will be used to study the problem and the feasibility of replicating the Volunteer Farm elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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