

Hunger Bits

*Doug Sensabaugh, Hunger Action Coordinator
Shenandoah Presbytery – No. 14*

We give gladly to help with hunger relief in many ways. Here are some of the programs supported through your contributions.

Highland Memorial Food Pantry hosts a unique ministry within Shenandoah Presbytery. It's "inner city" ministry supports and encourages a community that is right at it's front door every day. The 50-week-a-year food pantry has provided over 53,000 pounds of food to 2,867 people, including 1,072 children and nearly 400 older adults in 2005. The closing of a neighboring food pantry serving nearly 20,000 people a year has challenged Highland's Food pantry to stretch it's resources in this ever-growing community of need.

Massanutten Church Food Pantry saw a continued remarkable growth in support for it's ministry to the hungry of the community over the past year. The national and international disasters could have drawn attention away from the needs of those the pantry serves. But the church and people from the community including Spotswood High School students and some local college students help keep the pantry shelves stocked through the year. The pantry is supplying every child they support with school supplies to start the new school year. This big event in a child's life challenges the family resources, but the pantry eases that burden and brings so much more than food to their tables.

Volunteer Farm + Blue Ridge Area Bank + Congregations equals an amazing *partnership* to help the hungry in the western Virginia region. The **Volunteer Farm** is a non-profit charitable program that works through the **Blue Ridge Area Food Bank** to assist **congregations** in feeding the thousands of hungry people in 25 counties and 9 cities in the northern mountains of Virginia. Through this partnership, some 16,500 people are sustained each week with fresh, healthy food grown in their own community. Many youth groups, congregations and non-church community organizations support these efforts with the labors of their hands and their hearts of compassion.

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