

Hunger Bits

*Doug Sensabaugh, Hunger Action Coordinator
Shenandoah Presbytery – No. 13*

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

Valley Mission, located in Staunton, began its work 35 years ago by providing shelter, food and the Love of God to the homeless of the community. In their mission statement, they resolve to provide immediate temporary housing with the qualification that not only material but also spiritual needs will be met. The Mission offers three meals a day for anyone who is hungry. They also help anyone in the community to purchase food, clothing, household items, or medications through income from the thrift store and other sources of income.

Society of St Andrew. It starts with a prayer and ends by providing hungry people with good, nutritious food. In between, dedicated volunteers glean fresh produce of every conceivable variety, bag it, and then donate it to local service agencies that provide food to the hungry. Each Society of St Andrew event is a simple and common-sense approach to feeding the hungry. Every year enough food is wasted in The U.S. to feed all 36 million Americans living with hunger seven servings a meal, three meals a day. The *Gleaning Network* was formed to save as much of that food as possible. Since it began, it has saved over 108 million pounds of food that would have gone to waste.

Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA) serves the residents of Rockbridge County and the cities of Lexington and Buena Vista. RARA supports those in need with food, shelter, utilities, heating fuel, medications and gasoline/transportation. They may do so directly or in cooperation with other agencies that can provide the specific service. Food is provided Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 3:00-4:00pm. The pantry is supplied with food through the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, donations from local churches and civic groups and with discounts from local retailers.

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