

**IMPACT REPORT**

**Partner Impact  
& Innovation Grants**




AUGUST 2024



**“From expanding our programs to introducing new healthy food options, your donations have been the driving force behind our goal of ensuring that families in need have access to nutritious food choices.”**

– Adrienne Young, The Lifeworks Project  
(River City Bread Basket)

**Grant Impact at a Glance**  
July 2023-June 2024

-  **87 applicants** received an award
-  **83% of applicants** received an award
-  **\$333,472** dispersed in 2024

**Fueling Sustainability and Growth in Food Distribution**

Partner Impact & Innovation grants connect Blue Ridge Area Food Bank donors with partners to ensure that the food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens in our network have the resources they need to serve the growing number of guests seeking help. Your gifts help our partners distribute more nutritious food, work more efficiently, and provide a welcoming space for all. For the first time this year, some grants supported the **Health Pantry Initiative**, a movement that guides pantries to implement more health-focused and neighbor-centered practices.

One example of a partner you’re helping is **River City Bread Basket**, a partner food pantry in Waynesboro. Last year, a grant helped them purchase a two-door cooler and freezer that has significantly enhanced their storage capacity to accommodate a greater quantity of fresh produce.

These funds are, **“a beacon of hope,”** Pantry Director Adrienne Young shared. They allow partners to “concentrate on service and provide nutritious food to our neighbors,” instead of worrying about rising expenses and demand.

Other 2024 grants funded these resources:

- **40 coolers and freezers** to increase availability of fresh and frozen food
- **Translation devices** to communicate with guests from all backgrounds
- **Nutrition education** materials to encourage healthy choices
- **Pallet jacks, shelving, and shopping carts** to facilitate distributions

Since 2016, together we’ve invested **more than \$5 million** in building the capacity and resilience of our partner network. Thank you for standing with us!

