



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK

Everyone should have enough to eat.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JMU and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank host Stock the Shelves Day

Campus event encourages food donations and volunteering to help Shenandoah Valley families.

HARRISONBURG, Va., Oct. 1, 2026 — James Madison University and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank will host Stock the Shelves Day on Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the JMU Quad. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to donate nonperishable food and learn about volunteer opportunities. The event will collect food for local families and raise awareness about hunger in the Shenandoah Valley.

According to an estimate from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, 1 in 8 Shenandoah Valley residents faces hunger. Families experiencing hunger do not always have access to enough food to meet their needs.

Bringing a few cans of food might seem like a small action, but those donations add up," said Bryan Adams, a JMU civic engagement coordinator. "We want students and community members to see how they can help their neighbors through donating and volunteering."

Drop-off tents and collection stations will be set up throughout the Quad. Suggested donations include canned vegetables, canned beans, peanut butter, and pasta. All donated items should be unopened and fresh.

The event will feature a student-curated music playlist, JMU T-shirt and reusable tote bag giveaways, and "donate-to-play" cornhole and ring toss. Adams and Jordan Ellis, a Blue Ridge Area Food Bank volunteer coordinator, will discuss hunger in the Shenandoah Valley and explain how donations help local families.

The collaboration supports JMU's mission of civic engagement by bringing the campus and the surrounding community together to address local hunger. Food bank representatives will be available to answer questions and help attendees sign up for future volunteer shifts.

Bring a nonperishable item on Oct. 23 or stop by the volunteer station to sign up. For more information, contact Emily Orabona at emilyorabona@gmail.com or 571-999-3907.

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