

Food Pharmacy

Growing Partnerships in the Blue Ridge Region



How Do Food Banks Fit into the Health Equation?



Healthy People 2030 Goal: *Create social, physical, and economic environments that promote attaining the full potential for health and well-being for all.*

Food banks work with communities to operate food programs where people live, work, play, and grow

Over the past decade, evidence has demonstrated the impact of food insecurity on health outcomes and disparities among Americans

- Opportunities to do more and reach people where they go to get well



Our Partners in Nutrition Security & Health

- *Nutrition security* acknowledges that food alone isn't enough and is inclusive of access to high quality, nutritious foods that meet social, lifestyle and cultural food ways

- Working to meet the nutritional security needs of individuals with chronic disease presents new considerations

- Working alongside University of Virginia Kidney Center and Augusta Health, Blue Ridge has established its *Food Pharmacy Program*



How We Work Together

UVA KIDNEY CENTER (KC) & BLUE RIDGE AREA FOOD BANK (BRAFB)

HOW WE GET THE FOOD



Dietitian selects and orders kidney-friendly foods from BRAFB online inventory

BRAFB delivers food to KC regularly

Food stored on shelves in Kidney Center

HOW WE CONNECT PATIENTS WITH FOOD



Dietetic team screens KC patients for food insecurity, refers to Food Pharmacy

Food-insecure KC patients receive supplemental food weekly

Bags of food are packed by KC staff and delivered to patient during treatment

KC staff documents patient's visit to Food Pharmacy, welcomes feedback

HOW WE GET BETTER



Keep in mind—**This is new, innovative work.** We are learning together.

Have questions? Don't be afraid to ask. We may all need that question answered.

Share program feedback (yours and patients') with BRAFB staff

Collaborate and communicate. **We're a good team.**



A Place at The Table for All



- **Food Banks/pantries:** identify your champions
- **Health Care Providers:** how does nutrition security align with your Community Health Needs Assessment?
- **Foundations/ business:** explore how future funding opportunities may support food pharmacy partnerships
- **Legislators:** visit your local food pantry or food pharmacy program

