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## **MEDIA ADVISORY: Feeding America Southwest Virginia Annual Partner Program Conference to feature VA First Lady as Keynote speaker**

**WHAT:** First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe will present the keynote address at Feeding America Southwest Virginia's Partner Program Conference on Friday, September 15.

The theme of this year's conference is "together we can do great things" – inspirational words from Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The conference is an annual event held by the food bank to inform and engage with its 320 strong contingent of partner programs including food pantries, soup kitchens, backpack programs and others.

In addition to Mrs. McAuliffe's address, the conference will feature remarks by recently retired Roanoke Police Captain Rick Morrison and several informative breakout sessions on topics such as advocacy, self-sufficiency, produce distribution, food safety and senior outreach.

**WHO:** First Lady of Virginia, Dorothy McAuliffe  
Pamela Irvine, Feeding America Southwest Virginia, President & CEO

**WHEN:** Mrs. McAuliffe will speak at 12:15 p.m. **NOTE: Due to scheduling constraints, Mrs. McAuliffe will speak with media at noon BEFORE her remarks to the conference attendees. Media should arrive at noon for interviews.**

**WHERE:** Second Presbyterian Church  
214 Mountain Ave SW  
Roanoke, VA 24016

Parking will be available in the church parking lot. A room for interviews with the First Lady will be available immediately inside the sliding entrance doors to the right. Her full remarks will take place in the fellowship hall immediately following.

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### **About Feeding America Southwest Virginia**

Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded locally in 1981 and proudly commemorates 36 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships. For the last three and a half decades, the Food Bank's ultimate mission has remained the same: eliminate hunger in the region. The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure and distribute large quantities of food for Southwest Virginia's hungry. Approximately \$26.5 million worth of food and grocery related products are channeled annually through a network of more than 330 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9-city region that provide food or meals to those in need. The local Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America. Visit [www.faswva.org](http://www.faswva.org) for more information or like us on Facebook.