

HUNGER ACTION MONTH™

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

FEEDING
AMERICA®
Southwest Virginia

**FEEDING AMERICA SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ASKS SOUTHWEST VIRGINIANS TO
TAKE ACTION TO END HUNGER**

***Feeding America® Network Food Banks across the Country Promote
Hunger Action Month™***

Salem, Va – September 1, 2017 – This September Feeding America Southwest Virginia, together with the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks, will mobilize across all 50 states in an effort to bring an end to hunger. Hunger Action Month is designed to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of the fact that 42 million Americans, including 13 million children, are food insecure, according to the USDA.

In Southwest Virginia, more than 150,000 people struggle with hunger and may not know where they'll find their next meal. That number includes one in five kids who may not have enough to eat.

September marks the tenth year the Feeding America network of food banks has organized this annual call to action and Feeding America Southwest Virginia has participated in the Hunger Action Month movement since its inception. This year the campaign will focus on the strong connections between hunger and health.

The Hunger Action Month 2017 campaign asks people to consider how it must feel to live with an empty stomach, which puts a healthy life and a promising future at risk.

It is critically important that the people we serve have access to enough healthy food to reach their full potential," said Pamela Irvine, President and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia. "This is especially true for our children, who cannot grow, succeed or learn on an empty stomach."

"I've spent many days on the road this past year, visiting food banks, food pantries, and meal programs and meeting people who are facing hunger," said Diana Aviv, CEO of Feeding America. "I've seen firsthand the anguish that food insecurity and hunger can cause. It is always heartbreaking to meet a mother or father who fears that they will not be able to feed their children. They know that their children cannot reach their full potential if they don't have enough to eat."

Hunger Action Day®, the second Thursday in September, is a day where efforts across the country are focused for greater impact.

On September 14th, Feeding America Southwest Virginia asks supporters to share what they couldn't do without adequate nutrition by writing on an empty plate, "On an empty stomach I can't _____," and filling in the blank with something they couldn't achieve without the nutrition we need to thrive.

These photos can be posted to social media with #HungerActionMonth, @FASWVA and @FeedingAmerica to join the conversation.

This year, the food bank's highlight event for Hunger Action Month is its Food Truck Fest, which will be held at the Vinton Farmer's Market on September 29th. Visitors can enjoy food from a variety of local food trucks, beer, music and activities for children. Presented by Food Lion Feeds, entry to the event is free and festivities begin at 5 p.m.

To learn more about Feeding America Southwest Virginia and other ways you can get involved for Hunger Action Month in Southwest Virginia, please visit www.faswva.org or HungerActionMonth.org.

To make a contribution to Feeding America Southwest Virginia, visit www.faswva.org/donate.

#

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 for more information or like us on Facebook.

About Feeding America®

Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, we provide meals to more than 46 million people each year. Feeding America also supports programs that prevent food waste and improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger. Visit www.feedingamerica.org, find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).