



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Adam Whipple
Emily Whitworth

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lindsey Pérez

NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

LEXINGTON

MON, THU	WED	SAT
2:30 - 4:30 PM	1:30 - 4:30 PM	10 AM - 12 PM

GOSHEN

THU: 1 - 3 PM

UTILITIES ASSISTANCE + HOUSING SUPPORT

MON, TUE, WED, THU
9:30 AM - 12 PM

New applications accepted by phone from 9:30 AM to 12 PM. (540) 463-6642

RARA

350 Spotswood Drive
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6943
office@raralex.org

RARA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Meeting the Moment

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the compassion and generosity of this community. Last year brought growing challenges for many of our neighbors as they faced rising food costs, housing instability, high utility bills, and changes in federal benefits. More households than ever turned to RARA for support, including many who had never needed assistance in the past, resulting in record demand across our food, housing, and utility assistance programs. In the face of that growing need, our community responded with incredible care and commitment.

Throughout the year, RARA adapted to these challenges with flexibility and collaboration. Our Neighborhood Grocery programs kept pace with growing demand while prioritizing fresh produce, protein, and health and hygiene items. Our Utilities Assistance and Housing Support programs expanded significantly, helping more households avoid utility shutoffs, remain housed, or transition to more stable living situations. Beyond direct assistance, we also strengthened partnerships across Rockbridge County to improve coordination and build longer-term solutions to food and housing insecurity.

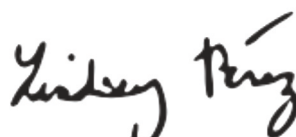


RARA and partners distributed food at the Remote Area Medical clinic

One of the most meaningful themes of 2025 was the power of community partnership. Volunteers contributed over 9,000 hours of service. Local businesses joined us through our new Business Partners program. Farmers, gardeners, churches, schools, healthcare providers, and nonprofit organizations all played an essential role in helping RARA respond to changing needs. Whether through food donations, financial support, advocacy, or hands-on service, this work was made possible by people who believe every neighbor deserves dignity, stability, and access to basic resources.

As we look ahead, RARA remains committed to strengthening the programs and partnerships that make this work possible while pursuing innovative solutions that improve access to resources, address housing instability, and connect food and health. Thank you for helping us meet the moment last year. Your support has provided more than food or financial assistance — it has provided relief, hope, and the reassurance that no one in our community has to face hardship alone.


Adam Whipple
Board President


Lindsey Pérez
Executive Director

A Year of Growing Need

As our community's needs grew, so did our commitment.

2024

2025

10,902 Visits to the Neighborhood Grocery ➤ 11,010

44,500 Pounds of local food donated to RARA ➤ 58,500

756 Utilities Assistance & Housing Support approvals ➤ 906

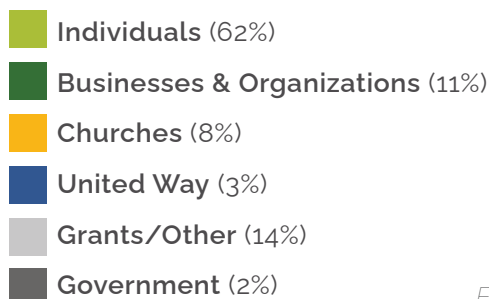
\$260,566 Amount spent on emergency rent and utilities assistance ➤ \$374,591

\$600 Maximum annual rent payments per household ➤ \$900

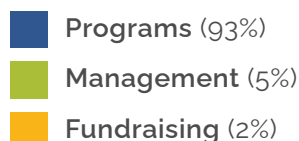
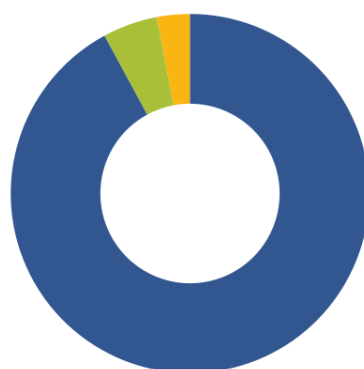
Investing in Neighbors

Every grocery cart filled, utility bill paid, and family supported reflects a community investment in the well-being of our neighbors. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses, churches, foundations, and local government, RARA was able to respond to rising needs while building a strong foundation for the future.

Income



Expenses



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

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Your gift could now qualify for a tax deduction, even if you don't itemize! Every donation provides groceries, housing support, and utilities assistance for our neighbors.



Scan QR to learn more.



Where We're Going

As community needs continue to evolve, RARA is focused on strengthening the systems and partnerships that help neighbors access the support they need. Guided by our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, we are investing in collaborative solutions that address immediate needs while building long-term stability.

Rockbridge Homeless Connection

RARA helped to establish the Rockbridge Homeless Connection coalition in 2025 to improve coordination among service providers, strengthen community awareness, and advance solutions for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.



Resource Navigation

RARA is looking into adding a Resource Navigation program to help connect households with federal benefits and community resources through enrollment support and warm hand-off referrals.



Food is Medicine

Building on existing partnerships with healthcare providers, RARA is exploring innovative approaches that connect nutritious food with improved health outcomes, including a produce prescription program and expanding nutrition education initiatives.



Our Business Partners

In 2025, RARA launched its Business Partners program to recognize local businesses investing in a stronger, healthier Rockbridge community. Business Partners help ensure families have access to food, housing stability, and essential resources when they need them most. The businesses featured here represent our top Business Partners, whose contributions of \$5,000 or more provided critical support for our mission. You may find the full list of supporters at www.raralex.org/businesspartners. We are deeply grateful to all our Business Partners for helping build a community where every neighbor can thrive.





Rockbridge Area Relief Association
350 Spotswood Drive
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6943
raralex.org

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US POSTAGE
PERMIT

Ms. Jane Smith
1234 Main Street
Homestead, VA 12345

Special thanks to our strategic partners



**Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK**



Be Part of the Solution

As demand for food, housing support, and utilities assistance continues to grow, your support makes it possible for RARA to respond with compassion, dignity, and flexibility. Whether you choose to donate, volunteer, host a food drive, become a Business Partner, or advocate for your neighbors, you play an essential role in ensuring everyone in our community has access to the resources they need to thrive.

To learn more about our mission and to donate, visit www.raralex.org/donate or scan the QR code to the right.



*Every Dollar Donated
Provides 10 Meals for
Families in Rockbridge
County*

