



A Welcoming Space for Everyone

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A combination of inflation and decreased federal and statewide benefits meant RARA experienced unprecedented demand for our services in 2023. These changes led to a significant increase in our direct client expenses over the last 5 years, meaning more money is going into the community to help our neighbors in



Ribbon cutting for the Neighborhood Grocery renovations

need. Additionally, we completed renovations to our Neighborhood Grocery in September, creating a safer, more welcoming environment where everyone can feel comfortable accessing food. This accomplishment underscores RARA's commitment to serving our community with compassion and resilience.

We know we are unable to meet the demand alone, and we have deepened existing community collaborations and developed new partnerships, utilizing each organization's strengths to better serve our neighbors. By working with agencies such as the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Central Shenandoah Health District, we are able to share health and nutrition tips, offer recipe ideas and tastings, and distribute more food and health & hygiene items to anyone who visits RARA. We also work with places like Project Horizon and Valley Program for Aging Services to coordinate housing and utilities for mutual clients. RARA will continue strengthening community partnerships in 2024 and beyond.

As you will see in this report, RARA is strong thanks to the coordinated effort of volunteers, staff, donors, and community partners. Your generosity and dedication are the driving force behind everything we do, and it is through your help that we are able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to provide essential services to those in need. Together, we are building a community where everyone has the resources to thrive.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Emily Whitworth

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lindsey Pérez

NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

MON, WED, THU

2:30 - 4:30 PM

SATURDAY

10 AM - 12 PM

Food donations can be made at any time!

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.

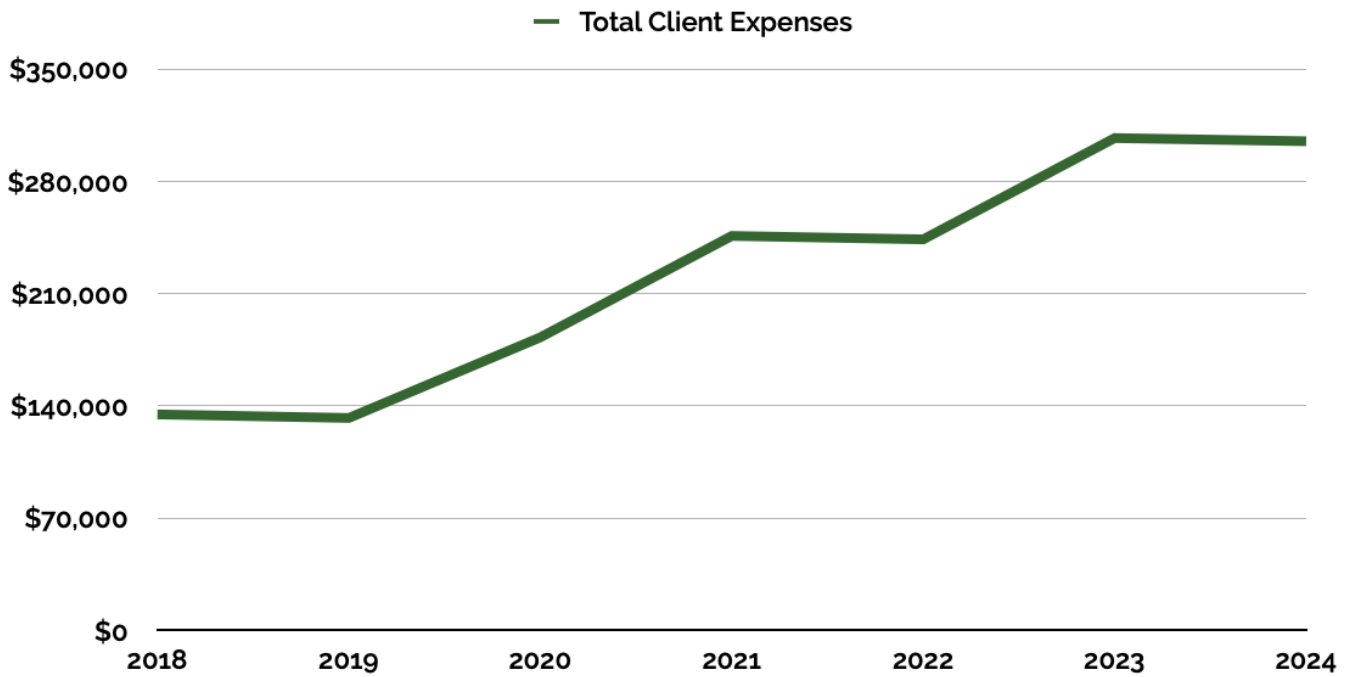



Amanda Green
Board President

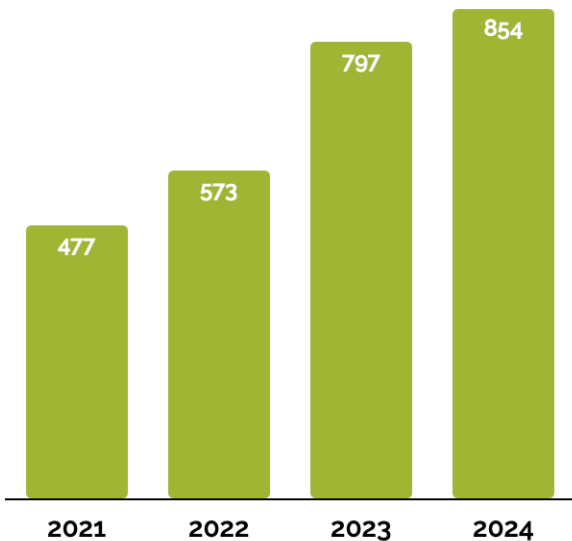

Lindsey Pérez
Executive Director

RARA By the Numbers

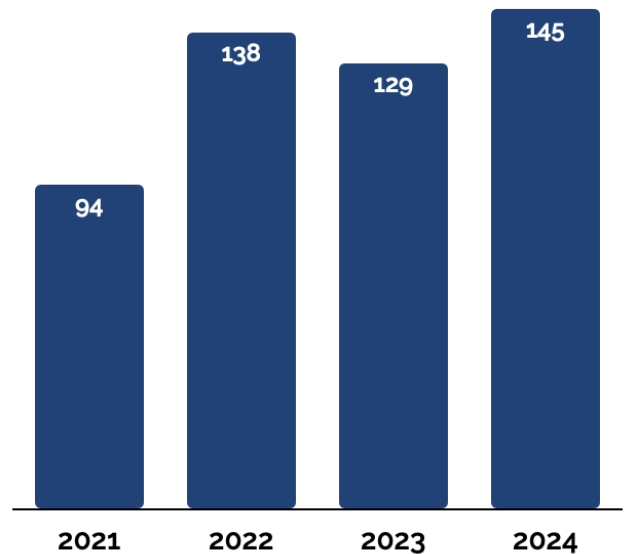
Annual Client Expenses



Monthly Average Neighborhood Grocery Visits



Monthly Average Utilities & Housing Requests





Our Commitment to Health & Community

In addition to renovating the Neighborhood Grocery, RARA has committed to implement more health-focused and community-centered practices as part of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks' Healthy Pantry Initiative. We believe that everyone deserves to live a full life by connecting with others and caring for their own wellbeing, and the initiative goes hand in hand with our goals. We have already implemented many of the recommended practices over the last several years, including offering a grocery experience with fresh fruits and vegetables, recipe tastings, and connecting families with outside resources. In the future, we will offer more foods that address specific dietary or cultural needs, highlight healthy items, and reduce barriers to access our services as well.



Finance

RARA is able to serve our community thanks to the generosity of neighbors, churches, businesses, and agencies who are invested in the well-being of Rockbridge residents. By supporting RARA, you're not just keeping the lights on or putting food on the table, you're giving dignity and respect.

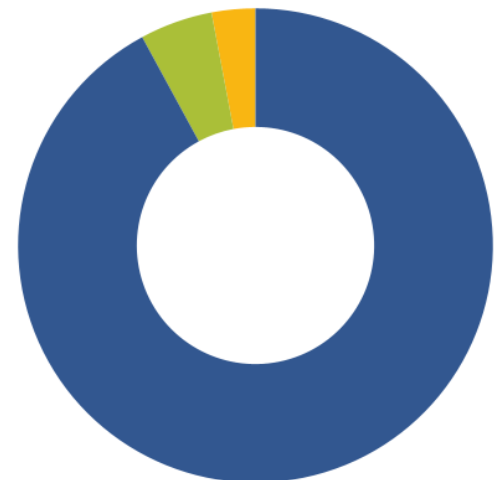
Income



- Individuals (41%)
- Businesses & Organizations (9%)
- Churches (9%)
- United Way (5%)
- Grants/Other (19%)
- Government (11%)
- Fundraising Event (6%)

Expenses

- Programs (93%)
- Management (5%)
- Fundraising (2%)



For detailed financial information (IRS Form 990), visit www.guidestar.org or call RARA.



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

NON PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PERMIT

Ms. Jane Smith
 1234 Main Street
 Homestead, VA 12345

Special thanks to our strategic partners



**Blue Ridge Area
 FOOD BANK**



Securing Our Future

Supporting RARA through planned giving is a powerful way to ensure our mission endures for years to come. Whether through a legacy gift in your will or estate plans or through an IRA, you can make a lasting impact. Additionally, people over 70½ years old can make direct transfers from an IRA without incurring taxable income. These thoughtful contributions can provide vital resources for our programs and services, helping to sustain and expand our efforts in assisting those in need. For more information on how to include RARA in your plans, please talk to your financial advisor and then visit www.raralex.org/donate or call our office at **540-463-6943**.



DONATE TODAY



**410+ total
 volunteers**



**8,050 hours of
 service, valued at
 \$255,290**



**597 unique
 donors**