



A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM
OUR FOOD BANK NETWORK

CHILD SUMMER HUNGER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Food Bank of Delaware	p4
Food Gatherers	p7
Foodlink New York.....	p10
Three Square Food Bank.....	p10
Chester County Food Bank.....	p12
Food Finders Food Bank.....	p12
Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign, and Logan Counties	p13
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee.....	p15
The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.....	p15
St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.....	p16

1 in 7 children struggle with hunger.

ABOUT FEEDING AMERICA

Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, providing over 4.8 billion meals annually to more than 40 million Americans, including 12 million children. Our network of 200 food banks strong and 60,000 agencies leverage public and private resources to distribute food through food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other local hunger relief programs to every congressional district in the country. In addition, Feeding America advocates for the protection and strengthening of federal nutrition programs including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).





CHILD HUNGER IN THE UNITED STATES

In the United States, 1 in 7 children are at risk of hunger. Feeding America works tirelessly to ensure children facing hunger have access to adequate meals especially during key out-of-school times like summer. For instance, our child feeding programs serve 10 million meals to more than 269,500 hungry children through the Summer Food Service Program. However, more than 18 million children who receive free or reduced priced lunch through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are unable to access a summer meal program.



CHILD SUMMER HUNGER

DEAR READER,

Thank you for taking the time to read our book, *Child Summer Hunger: A Collection of Stories from Our Food Bank Network*. Feeding America has developed a collection of stories from across our network of food banks to highlight the challenges and successes to serve more children through summer feeding programs including the Summer Food Service Program. These are the voices of kids facing hunger, families struggling to get by, and the dedicated staff and volunteers who work hard every day to make sure everyone in our community has enough to eat.

Feeding America's member food banks operate innovative distribution programs such as Kids Cafe®, Backpack programs, School Pantry programs, and other afterschool and summer feeding programs to reach more children. These programs make a profound difference for the children they reach, but are often limited in scope due to regulatory and administrative burdens. Many of these programs are funded through federal nutrition programs established by Congress, managed by dedicated state agencies, and administered by community partners. But when regulatory burdens get in the way, food banks do their best to fund innovative models to reach kids who otherwise would not have access to meals.

Feeding America is working with federal lawmakers to expand access to federal child nutrition programs through policy changes to the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act—legislation dictating program operations for programs feeding millions of children—to make it easier for communities to feed kids in all settings.



In the summer, 5 out of every 6 kids who need summer meals don't get the food they need to thrive. During the school year, even fewer are able to access afterschool meals.

Children can't learn or grow when they are hungry, and too many children go without food during the summer. In the summer, 5 out of every 6 kids who need summer meals don't get the food they need to thrive.

Feeding America's Food Banks know how they can help close this summer meal gap—but these efforts are bogged down by administrative red tape. By streamlining summer paperwork and allowing food banks to operate one program year-round, we can increase the number of summer programs and feed so many more kids. And by encouraging innovative program models like a summer EBT grocery card and allowing kids to consume meals off-site, we can feed so many more children.

Food banks and other community groups want to help—and they need Congress to do their part by passing common-sense legislation to allow them to do so.

Now is the time to act. Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) gives Congress a chance to renew and expand federal programs that provide meals kids need—during the summer and year-round. CNR is up for renewal right now—which means we need to make our voices heard in order to get more meals to kids in the summer, after school and beyond.

No child should have to worry where their next meal will come from. And I know that if we work together, we have the power to set things right.

Let's make sure that our communities and elected officials can band together to end child hunger—not in twenty years, but today.

Sincerely,
Kate Leone
Chief Government Relations Officer

NEWARK, DE

TOLD FROM THE FOOD BANK OF DELAWARE

Summer is the hardest time for many in our community, especially those with young children at home. That's why the Food Bank of Delaware operates a 10-week summer meal program called Grab-N-Go to serve youth ages 5-18 years.

Our program delivers a breakfast and lunch to communities that have a high population of children who do not have access to nutritious meals during the summer when school is not in session. Meals are provided for 7 days a week, giving kids in our program the consistency and security they need to thrive during the summer months.

The success of this summer program depends on our ability to be flexible and available to meet our families' diverse needs. We collaborate with housing authorities, neighborhoods and state service centers to provide meals. Some of the communities have a neighborhood champion who hands the meals out to the children. At other communities, our drivers hand out the meals. At state service centers our driver hands out meals to children who

are with their parent/guardian for appointments. Children are able to pick up their meals within their community/neighborhood and take the meal kits home for consumption.

Whatever it takes to make sure young people in our community have reliable access to the nutrition they need, we'll do it.

Our chef creates the menu and a group of 6-10 volunteers prepare and pack meals daily in the Food Bank of Delaware kitchen. All meal components are packed in clear, sealed, ready to go bags, for a healthy, nutritious meal that can be easily taken home to enjoy. Breakfast might include yogurt, an apple and fresh milk; lunch includes freshly prepared items such as chicken Caesar salad, string cheese, whole-wheat crackers, and apple juice. Every day is different, every meal is hand-packed with love.

We want to make sure that children who rely on us never have to worry about where their next meal will come from. On the last delivery day of the week, we provide a BackPack kit in addition to the fresh meals for the day. The

BackPack kit includes meals for the weekend—two breakfasts and two suppers. On Monday, we see happy, healthy kids come back to us.

This summer program is funded solely by grants, which are used to staff the program and purchase meal components, bags, and promotional items. If these models were able to be funded through federal programs, the food bank would be able to use limited resources to feed even more kids. We have five drivers who deliver the meals to every corner of our community. In some delivery areas there is a neighborhood champion who hands out the meals and tracks daily meal service. These stops are considered "drop sites." At other stops, our driver stays for 15-20 minutes and hands out the meals. These are "driver stays." The program is promoted via yard signs, banners, and flyers. The neighborhood champions promote the program as well. The majority of sites have returned from previous years. When funding allows, new sites are added.





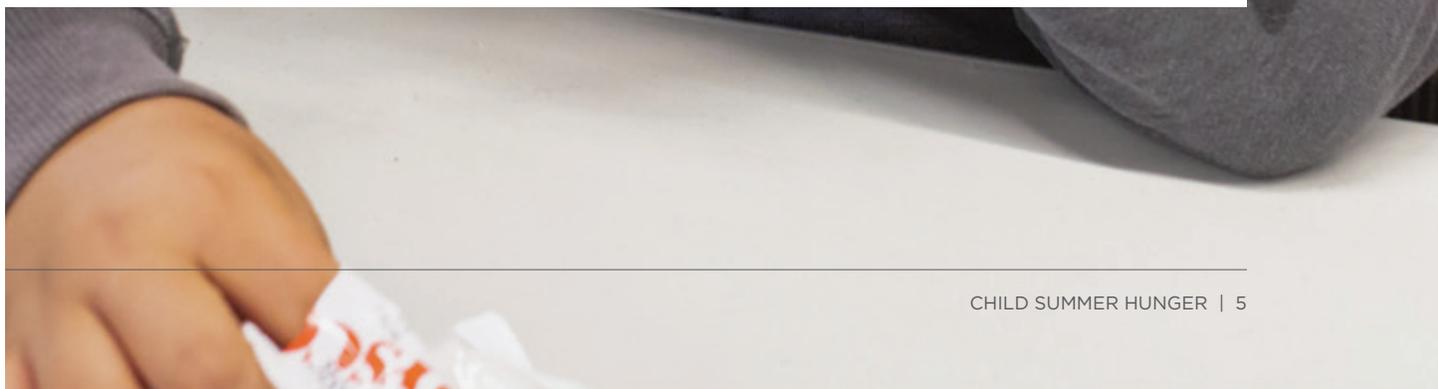
IN THE SUMMERTIME

10-year-old Luis eats lunch at the Henry Hyde Resource Center in Addison, Illinois—a suburb of Chicago. He goes because he likes playing games and seeing his friends. But he also goes because if he were home, he probably wouldn't be eating lunch.

The Resource Center, working with Northern Illinois Food Bank, a member of the Feeding America network, helps fill the gap when school's out. Sometimes, lunch at the center is the only solid meal Luis eats.

"We eat leftovers a lot and my mom tries to stretch what we've got," Luis said. "But I worry about not having a dinner when I get home."

"There's no lunch at home during the summer. I wouldn't be having lunch if it wasn't here."





ILIANA IS 7 YEARS OLD AND SHE WANTS TO BE A DOCTOR.

And she's got a very unique reason for that choice.

"I want to be a doctor when I grow up because they help people just like summer meals are helping us," she said.

During the summer, Iliana and her 6-year-old brother Armanie visit a summer meals program in Phoenix organized by St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance—a member of the Feeding America network.

"The meals lift a burden for me," said her mother, Jessica. "They keep the kids fed during the summer."

During the school year, Jessica works for a temp agency, getting consistent work in warehouses around her home in Phoenix. But when Iliana and Armanie are out of school during the summer, Jessica can't afford daycare, so she stays home.

And that means the budget is tight and food gets scarce.

"The meals lift a burden for me," said her mother, Jessica. "They keep the kids fed during the summer."

"It's so hard when I don't have income during the summer," she said. "But I don't have a choice. Sending both kids to daycare five days a week would be too expensive." And that's why the summer meals program is so important to her family.

"It helps us out a lot," she said.

ANN ARBOR, MI

TOLD FROM

FOOD GATHERERS

It's not just about getting enough calories. Food is about community, about family, about sharing. It should be fresh, nutritious, healthy, and interesting. The children we serve sometimes don't know whether there will be enough food to eat at home. We want food to be something they get excited about, not something they worry about.

moment for the kids—it adds a bit of mystery, a bit of surprise, and teaches them that healthy, nutritious food is something to celebrate. It's not unusual to see children excited to receive the boxes and ask to open them to inspect the contents before traveling home.

To help families make the most of this seasonal produce, each box

so that every family we serve could receive a box.

In partnership with Kroger, Food Gatherers also provides Weekend Meal Bags to children at seven of the SFSP sites throughout the summer. Each Weekend Meal Bag provides easy- to-prepare meals to children who may not have access to healthy meals over the weekend. Food Gatherers will provide over 4,500 meals to children over the course of the summer through the Weekend Meal Bag program. Families of the SFSP sites are also able to get free groceries during a Mobile Grocery Distribution during the summer. At the Mobile Grocery Distribution, families can receive free groceries such as dairy, produce, and non-perishable food items.

“The Weekend Meal Bags particularly saw a dramatic increase in the children’s initial participation in the SFSP meal sites as well as follow-through in taking the bags home with them after leaving the SFSP sites. We believe that this was due to the familiarity that children had with the meals being distributed in Kroger grocery bags as well as the items that were in the bags. Many of the children were excited to tear open the weekend meal bags, even before leaving the SFSP sites, to see what treats were in store for them that weekend.”

Food Gatherers sponsors the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) with partnerships with two local school districts. We provided meals to families at 31 sites across Washtenaw County, Michigan, during summer 2019, and also piloted mobile summer meals to deliver meals to three residential sites that otherwise would not be able to get to a permanent location for meal sites.

We provide each family who visits one of our SFSP sites a produce box packed full with nutritious, fresh, in-season produce along with recipes that families can follow to cook the items in the produce boxes. This is a special

includes recipe cards specifically researched for that batch of produce boxes. As the selection of fresh produce changes over the course of the summer, so do the included recipes.

Carefully selected, the recipes are simple to prepare using the produce and require minimal cooking experience and equipment in order to make the meals as accessible to all participants as possible. Many times, the recipes combine multiple components that are in each produce box to optimize usage of the fresh ingredients. This summer, we committed to distributing fresh produce boxes at all SFSP sites,





EVEN
DERON
KNOWS IT
CAN BE
TOUGH

Jessie Begay never expected to have a family. She never had children of her own. But after her sister died five years ago, that changed.

Jessie's sister had been taking care of her two grandchildren. When she died, Jessie wasn't going to let the grandchildren her sister loved so much—9-year-old Deron and 10-year-old Miley—go into foster care.

Five years later, she considers herself their mom.

Part of ensuring the kids are happy is making sure they have enough to eat. And that can be hard.

Jessie is a non-emergency medical transport driver, taking patients to and from appointments all over Arizona. Despite her long hours, she doesn't get paid a lot.

“I worry about a lot of things,” she said. “I worry about how I’m going to pay rent and how I’m going to put food on the table.”

During the summer, when the kids don't get free breakfast and lunch at school, Jessie also worries about filling in that meal gap for Deron and Miley.

Even Deron knows it can be tough.

“In the summer, it's hard because we don't have two meals each day that we normally get at school,” he said.

So, Jessie takes the kids to Golden Gate Community Center, a summer camp in Phoenix. The center serves breakfast and lunch to the kids through a partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, a member of the Feeding America network.

“If we didn't have the food from the community center, we wouldn't eat as much in the summer,” Deron admits. “It helps a lot.”

Sometimes, to supplement what the kids eat at Golden Gate, Jessie picks up groceries from a local food pantry with St. Mary's. She'll do whatever she needs to make sure her kids have food to stay healthy.

“It's not shameful to ask for help,” she said. “Because there's always help available out there.”

Deron and Miley know how much Jessie does to take care of them and how much she loves them. And they're happy to call her “mom” too.

“I'm really proud of her,” Deron said. “I appreciate her. She works really hard and on top of everything, she helps us get food.”

ROCHESTER, NY

TOLD BY FOODLINK NEW YORK

We always strive to do more. Reach more families, provide more meals, add more nutritional value and more fresh ingredients.

We started our Mobile Meals Program in the summer of 2017 because we knew that many people in our community weren't able to make it to our existing sites. The program was so successful that we invested in a van—through the Feeding America Enterprise grant—that is dedicated to mobile meals. We are now reaching more people in every part of our community.

We also expanded operating from 8 weeks in 2017 to 10 weeks last summer. In some cases, we partner with organizations that lack the personnel to serve meals, and in others we identify areas in the city where youth congregate, but lack any programming. We have strong partnerships with four local libraries, and an organization that runs a program at a local park.

We use fresh ingredients whenever possible in our lunch meals, which include lean meats or meat alternates, whole grains,

vegetables, fruit, and milk. In 2018, we served an average of 359 children each day, delivering 3,593 meals throughout the summer. That's 3,593 times that a child was able to get a healthy, fresh meal that might otherwise be out of reach. It's 3,593 full bellies and happy smiles.

We are very proud of that impact—and we need to do more.

LAS VEGAS, NV

TOLD FROM THREE SQUARE FOOD BANK

In the Greater Las Vegas Valley, one in five children lives in a household that is food insecure. During the school year, 65% of our students in the Clark County School District rely on free and reduced-priced lunch. When summer comes, that option disappears—and for many

families, a situation that was already very challenging becomes downright unbearable.

The Three Square Food Bank works to close that gap in the summer months by providing meals through the Backpack for Kids Program as well as our Meet Up and Eat Up (MUEU) Programs.

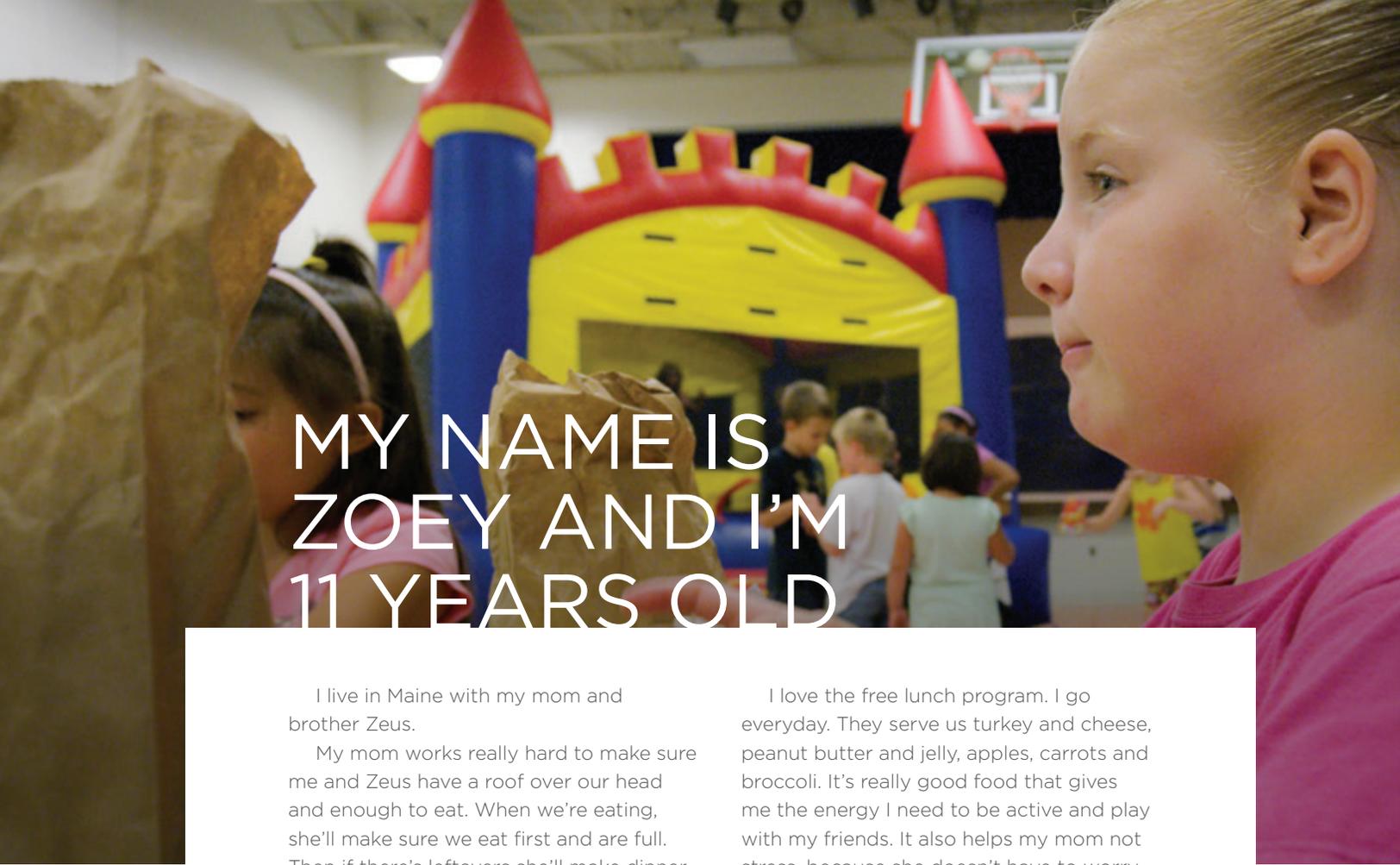
Through the MUEU Program, approximately 2,000 breakfast meals and 4,000 lunch/supper meals are served on a daily basis. This program has allowed Three Square to partner with roughly 100 community members such as libraries, churches, apartment complexes, parks & recreation centers, and Boys & Girls Clubs. These partnerships mean that we aren't just helping families get by during the summer months—we are helping build a stronger community. In addition to our meal distribution sites, Three Square currently operates three mobile

routes to bring meals directly to children in apartment complexes.

The weekends are often the most challenging time for the families we serve—even when school is in session, many resources are only available Monday through Friday. The Backpack for Kids Program leverages our existing partnerships to help kids and families make it through the weekend.

Sites that provide the Backpack Program to children in need are partners in our MUEU program. Each one of them operates as an "Open" site, allowing children from the community to come eat a meal during meal service. On Fridays, weekend bags are distributed to children after their meal service, providing breakfast and lunch throughout the weekend. In the 2019 summer alone, we distributed 11,500 bags through the Backpack for Kids Program.





MY NAME IS ZOEY AND I'M 11 YEARS OLD

I live in Maine with my mom and brother Zeus.

My mom works really hard to make sure me and Zeus have a roof over our head and enough to eat. When we're eating, she'll make sure we eat first and are full. Then if there's leftovers she'll make dinner for herself. She works from home, but I know it's a struggle.

During the school year, I get free lunch and breakfast at school, which helps my mom make sure we have enough food for the weekends. But during the summer when school is out, we don't have those meals, so instead we go to the free lunch program.

I love the free lunch program. I go everyday. They serve us turkey and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, apples, carrots and broccoli. It's really good food that gives me the energy I need to be active and play with my friends. It also helps my mom not stress, because she doesn't have to worry about finding money to feed us extra meals during the summer.

Without the lunch program, I would be sad. I'm really happy that we have it. To everyone who makes it possible I want to say thank you. Because you're making kids like me happy and our parents happy, too, by making it easier for all of us to get enough to eat.

“I love the free lunch program. I go everyday. They serve us turkey and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, apples, carrots and broccoli. It's really good food that gives me the energy I need to be active and play with my friends. It also helps my mom not stress, because she doesn't have to worry about finding money to feed us extra meals during the summer.”

EXTON, PA

TOLD FROM

CHESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK

In Chester County, many families struggle in the summertime without the free school lunch programs that many children rely on during the academic year. Suddenly losing a reliable source of support creates hardship and stress for our neighbors who are already stretched so thin to provide for their families.

Chester County Food Bank (CCFB) created our Summer

chicken, milk, fruit, rice and beans. Families can visit a participating member agency or youth center and pick up a supply of nutritious, easy-to-prepare, nonperishable food during the summer vacation months—and breathe a little easier knowing they can count on us.

These families aren't the only members of our community who benefit from a thriving and well-supported Food Bank. During

we brought in a group of teenagers to work with the Food Bank all summer long. This group of dedicated, energetic young people was able to serve and connect with their communities and build life and leadership skills, all while earning summer income. This innovative program strengthened the Summer Food Box program while providing a powerful experience for those involved—a true win-win for our community.

Chester County Food Bank works year-round to combat food insecurity all across Chester County, with programs for seniors, school-aged kids, and everyone in between. With a focus on fresh food and nutritional education, CCFB works tirelessly to support its neighbors in need and to end hunger in its communities.

“We both live in Coatesville, so we see people on the streets often, and it’s nice that we can come and serve our own community and the children.”

Food Box program to fill that gap. Powered by volunteers, this program provides boxes to school-age children and their families. Each box is packed with all sorts of nonperishable foods: cereal, granola bars, canned tuna and

Summer 2018, we teamed up with the alumni of the Coatesville Youth Initiative’s ServiceCorps program, an eight-week summer service/ leadership development program for Coatesville-area youth. With generous support from Enterprise,

LAFAYETTE, IN

TOLD FROM

FOOD FINDERS FOOD BANK

One of the biggest challenges for families who rely on the Food Finders Food Bank is simply being able to get to a meal location or food pantry and back home again.

To help address this chronic issue, we recently made a partnership with our local public transit system, CityBus, in order to distribute food for a pilot Produce Drop program.

“We found success with our Produce Drops by collaborating with existing agencies in low-income areas to advertise the event. One particular site held a family dinner night, and we brought our produce truck after that dinner in order to serve the most people. Food Finders held 47 Produce Drop distributions serving 828 households during summer 2018.”



SPRINGFIELD, OH

TOLD FROM

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF CLARK, CHAMPAIGN, AND LOGAN COUNTIES

Families struggle together, face challenges together, they thrive together. Making sure that the children in our community have enough to eat means providing support for whole families. We are always looking for ways to innovate our programs so they work better for the people who are counting on us.

programs into a one-stop shop in the neighborhoods we serve. Three locations serve lunch to children three days a week. While the kids are eating, parents can pick up fresh produce and non-perishable food at an on-site school pantry. At the end of the week students receive a backpack bag of food for the weekend. And

how to apply. Then community agencies came in to give children and adults information on the available resources in the community.”

The community involvement was spectacular. There was a level of awareness and education about child nutrition and food insecurity brought to the community. We had people calling asking how they could host a program and do something similar in their neighborhoods.

At a school-based site in New Carlisle, teachers, administrators, and even the superintendent participated—filling backpacks, distributing food, and leading activities. They told us that they wanted their students to know they care about them all year long, including the summer. Their presence provided continuity and comfort for families, and helped bring the entire community together. The incredible success of this summer program has created excitement about continuing during the school year. School leaders will be working with our agency coordinator to make this a reality—and they already have volunteers signed up to participate.

“Second Harvest Food Bank’s case manager provided information on SNAP benefits and how to apply. Then community agencies came in to give children and adults information on the available resources in the community”

Our backpack program provides bags of food for kids when school lunches are not available. Years ago, we combined that program with a mobile pantry truck—so while kids picked up their backpacks on one side, parents received fresh produce on the other. It was a good start.

Next, we introduced a summer kids’ café which provided hot meals. The café was a success for our children—but it left adults out and made it hard for families to get the support they need.

This summer, we combined these effective—but separate—

it’s not just food—on-site programming is available for children and parents, including games, crafts, and coloring activities.

Every program, every pantry site, every backpack we hand out and meal we serve—it all makes a difference. But when we combine our efforts and work to do the most good we can for the whole family and the whole community—that’s when real breakthroughs happen.

“Second Harvest Food Bank’s case manager provided information on SNAP benefits and

“For some of the kids, it was a reprieve from hectic households. They received an hour of fun, support, and a warm meal. It was heartwarming to watch the kids and their families come in and sit with their neighbors and have a meal.”



TEN-YEAR-OLD OSCAR TRIES TO BE A NORMAL KID

He likes hanging out with his friends, playing sports and even doesn't mind going to school, where he'll be in the 5th grade next year.

Oscar's dad works as a waiter and his mom cleans houses. Even though both his parents are working, he says sometimes the budget is tight as his house. That's why he gets free lunch at his school.

During the summer, that meal isn't available. So Oscar visits the Henry Hyde Resource Center in Addison, a suburb near Chicago, Illinois. He relies on the lunch he eats there everyday, because in the summer, he has nothing else to eat.

"I'd be skipping lunch if it weren't for this," he said, "This lunch is a miracle."

"I'd be skipping lunch if it weren't for this," he said, "This lunch is a miracle."

KINGSPORT, TN

TOLD FROM

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

People here in Northeast Tennessee are used to having to do more with less. We stretch our resources as far as we can, we come up with new ways of doing things, and we rely on each other to get by.

That's the spirit that has enabled the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee to help more families than ever before. We've worked closely with partners and developed innovative solutions to cover gaps in service, all while serving the families who are counting on us and identifying opportunities for future growth.

Expanding summer services has been a critical priority—after all, that's when children need support the most. Our Summer Food Service Program partnered with agencies and community programs to reach as many households with children as possible. Because every family's needs are unique, we deliver food in a variety of ways—traditional meal sites where families can come together, mobile meal

sites to reach rural communities, and meal distribution sites where parents can pick up supplies to take home.

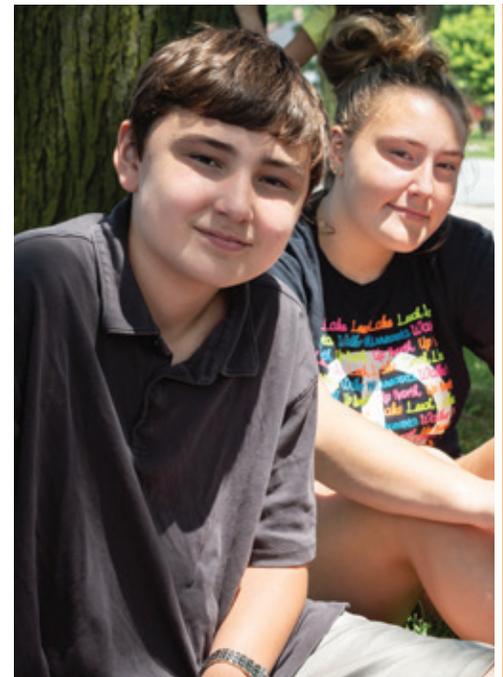
The addition of the Child Hunger Mobile Pantry was an extraordinary success, providing food resources for the entire family. The mobile pantry delivered 120,226 meals to 5,689 children—doubling the summer distribution from the year before. Doing twice as much good for our community is a major victory—but by working closely with partners, we can do even more.

We have developed partnerships with other agencies and service organizations to expand services and identify gaps in services so that no child slips through the cracks.

Together with our partners in local schools and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, we piloted a Summer EBT program for three counties in Northeast Tennessee. More than 9,000 children redeemed benefits over the course of the summer, receiving \$30 per month. It might not seem

like much, but that added security means so much to the families we serve.

After all, we're used to doing the best we can with what we have around here, and we'll keep working every day to meet the need in our community.



TULSA, OK

TOLD FROM

THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA

"I was afraid to approach my neighbors... but the truck out here made it feel open and welcome to chat with anyone. Feels like we get to have lunch together." That's what we heard from one resident when we brought our Mobile Eatery Program food truck to her apartment complex. And it's true: Food helps kids and communities grow stronger!

The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma established our

Mobile Eatery Program to provide meals to children in Section 8 apartment complexes. Every day, the food trucks serve around 225 meals to children and 50 meals to adults. The food truck allows easy separation of child and adult meals, allowing us to serve—and bring together—the entire community.

At these sites, kids compete in chalk art contests, soccer, jump rope and Frisbee. The site also brings treats each Friday to

celebrate children that have had a birthday during the previous week. It's a fun, safe, joyful environment.

To expand access to fresh, healthy produce, we also partner with the YMCA of Greater Tulsa to host Free Family Farmers' Markets. Students enrolled in summer school receive SFSP meals while at school, and also have access to farmers' markets that deliver thousands of pounds of fresh produce over the summer months.

ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE

Every community is different, and meeting a community's needs sometimes requires flexibility, creativity, and innovative thinking.

Here in Northern Arizona, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance has developed a highly effective summer meals program designed to help families face some unique challenges.

We started in 2017 with two Hunger Free Summer Hubs in rural Northern Arizona communities with a goal to increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program. These Hubs made an immediate impact, so the next year we added a third Hunger Free Summer Hub in the Grand Canyon. These are areas that have never before had a summer food site—there simply wasn't anywhere for families to turn during the summer months.

The Grand Canyon area faces a particularly complex set of challenges. This is a high-need community due to low income, with high free and reduced school lunch rates at the Grand Canyon Unified School District. As in so many communities, that makes the summer a time of exceptional need.

But the Grand Canyon isn't entirely like other places. This community is entirely reliant upon the operation of, and tourism associated with, the Grand Canyon National Park. Hospitality workers and their families in this area rely upon their employers for housing, food, transportation, and income. Most families live in dormitories provided by their employer and have limited access to regular kitchen facilities to prepare and store food. The Grand Canyon Area also lacks a traditional grocery store, instead only hosting "General Stores" that cater to passing tourists and offer extremely limited access to fresh food at inflated prices.

That all adds up to fewer options for families who are struggling to put enough food on the table. Our Summer Food Service program strives to provide the reliable support that otherwise would be out of reach.

We selected sites and partners throughout the area to address need and limit duplication of services.

- The Grand Canyon Unified School District and Kaibab Learning Center hosted closed sites for their enrolled students participating in Summer School.
- The Grand Canyon Recreation Center hosted an open site inside Grand Canyon Village for walk-in child participants and local youth residents.

- In the outlying community of Valle, where long distances and a lack of public transportation make other resources unreachable, we established a site located within a housing subdivision at a baseball field with picnic benches and a small shelter for inclement weather.
- The Tusayan site was located at the public sports complex within the Town of Tusayan, close to local low-income housing and a popular place for children participating in athletic activities.

Serving our community effectively isn't just about where—it's about how. In rural sites, the Food Bank can't accommodate a daily delivery of fresh meals. That's where the Freeze and Thaw program comes in. We provide meal sites with a freezer and refrigerator, then send cases of frozen individual products, the primary components of a meal, and the accompanying non-perishable side dishes including shelf-stable milk.

The sites store the product for and assemble the components to create a full meal on-site prior to meal service time. All Freeze and Thaw site meals are served cold—no cooking or reheating of the meals is required. It's the right model to match the resources, challenges, and unique needs of the families we serve.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Feeding America network for their contributions, insightfulness, and willingness to share their summer feeding journey with representatives across all perspectives. Thank you!

On behalf of the Feeding America National Office, we extend our sincerest thanks to all network food banks.



DONATE. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.

Feeding America is a nationwide network of food banks that feeds more than 40 million people through food pantries and meal programs in communities across America and leads the nation in the fight against hunger.



35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 2000
Chicago, Illinois 60601

1627 I Street NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006

1.800.771.2303
www.feedingamerica.org