

ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

Summer Food Service to Community Children

Family Enrichment Network is pleased to report on its summer meal program. The Summer Food Services Program is funded by the NYS Department of Education, and their goal is to serve nutritious meals that meet meal requirements and are appetizing to children. The SFSP tag line reads, "It's food that's in when school is out."

All meals are prepared on-site and served by our staff. It is a remarkable program, as we are immediately aware that we've met our goal. Children and their parents or family members arrive, they are given a breakfast or lunch, and they eat! Parents' meals are paid for by the Agency, and we are pleased that we can offer their meals too. In the past two years, the breakfast and lunch meals have been served as a grab and go. So, the families actually take their meals to their home or another location to eat them. This form of programming is not as well attended as our in person dining; but, it does provide them with a quality breakfast and/or lunch. At a time when food dollars are tight for many community families, it's nice to be able to assist with a basic need in such a direct manner.

Children arrive with their parents, in a group, or sometimes on their own; but, however they arrive, whether it's as a member of a large group or a family, the goal is still the same...feed them, provide them with a high-quality, well-balanced hot and cold meals. For many, it may be their main sustenance for the day. And, we are pleased that families choose our program. As an open center, families can come from the neighborhood, the Johnson City community, or from anywhere.

We modified our menu mid-summer to encourage children and their families to continue participating in our grab and go program; our Food Services staff have spent time getting to know the children we're serving and relationships have been formed. Both children and adults spend time talking with the staff members who are serving them their meals.

We served 918 breakfast and lunch meals to children. Due to the fact that our program was offered in a grab and go model, it was primarily local children who benefited from this summer's program.

The Summer Food Services Program is a wonderful resource for our community and families, and we look forward to its continued success with next year's program when we hope to be providing our popular in person breakfast and lunch program in cafeteria.

To learn more about Summer Food Services Program, please visit us at www.familyenrichment.org or call (607) 723-8313



The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.