

ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

The Summer Food Services Program

Family Enrichment Network is pleased to report on its summer meal program. The Summer Food Services Program (SFSP) is run by the NYS Department of Education, and their goal is to serve nutritious meals and snacks 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. They leave the site having an opportunity to eat a healthy meal. At a time when food dollars are incredibly tight for our community families, it's nice to be able to assist with a basic need in such a direct and meaningful way.

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. Additionally to support our SFSP participants we held a Children's Farmers Market that provided all children with free, in season, fruits and vegetables to take home with them following their lunch.

We modified our menu mid-summer to build on our menu offerings to children and their families and encourage their continued attendance in our program; and the Food Services Staff spent time getting to really know the children we're serving. When the children miss even one day, staff wonder where they've been, and when they return, the food services staff spend extra time interacting with them...telling them how good it is to see them. It's an amazing program because it benefits our whole community.

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, 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.