



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Summer Food Program to Fill Youth Nutrition Gaps

ROCKFORD, ILL. – Nutritious meals for children will again be available throughout Winnebago and Boone Counties at sites participating in the Summer Food Service Program. The sites are non-profit organizations and recreation centers providing no-cost lunches and/or snacks to children ages 18 and younger who are either enrolled in the centers' summer programming or by coming to an approved open site to receive meals. Sites are either in close proximity to a school where more than 50 percent of the children are eligible to receive free/reduced lunch, or they serve a group of children where most of them come from low-income families.

Feeding America estimates there are more than 45,000 individuals in Winnebago County and more than 5,500 in Boone County who experience food insecurity. Lack of adequate nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance for students once school begins again. Hunger also makes children more prone to illness and other health issues. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children are kept nourished and engaged.

“One in seven Americans struggles to get enough to eat, yet the vast majority of food-insecure households with children are working households,” said Christopher Greenwood, Community Health and Prevention Coordinator for Community Action of Winnebago and Boone Counties which coordinates the Summer Food program locally. “Eighty-five percent of households with children who reported food insecurity in 2014 also reported at least one adult who earned an income,” he continued. “Sadly, the income generated by work was not sufficient to protect those families from food insecurity.”

“We feel fortunate that so many organizations in our area are willing to actively address this nutrition gap affecting our children,” said Greenwood. “We also recently received a \$5,000 grant from the No Kid Hungry campaign which we will use to enhance the reach and effectiveness of our Summer Food programming.”

A Summer Food site list is available for parents who can contact sites about their activity program enrollment requirements or to identify a neighborhood site where food is available to their children. Site lists are available at <http://www.rockfordil.gov/human-services/community-neighborhood-programs/community-health-prevention.aspx>.

The Summer Food Service Program is operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), administered by the Illinois State Board of Education, and managed locally by the City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency. The lunches and snacks are provided by Lifescape Community Services of Rockford.

(list enclosed)

2016 Summer Food Sites for Winnebago and Boone Counties

Residents should contact the participating sites for individual program details and the lunch/snack schedule.

Rockford

Beattie Playground, 1221 Rural St.

Beth Eden United Methodist Church, 3201 Huffman Blvd.

Blackhawk Boys & Girls Club, 330 - 15th Ave.

Bloom Playground, 2901 Pelham Rd.

Booker Washington Center, 524 Kent St.

Centennial United Methodist Church, 1503 Broadway

Christ the Carpenter United Methodist Church, 1000 S. Winnebago St.

Churchill Park, 2002 – 7th Ave.

Community Action Agency 555 N. Court St.

Elliot Playground, 988 S. Lyford Rd.

Fairgrounds Valley Playground, 1015 W. Jefferson St.

First Evangelical Covenant Church, 316 Wood Rd.

Flodin Boys & Girls Club, 1000 Mill Rd.

Harkins Pool, 910 Acorn St.

Harmon Park, 1928 East Gate Parkway

Highland Park, 3011 Rural St.

House of Grace, 518 N. Court Street

Ken-Rock Community Center, 3218 – 11th St.

Keye-Mallquist Park, 1702 – 11th St.

Lewis Lemon/Rockford Park District, 1993 Mulberry St.

Liberty Baptist Church, 3500 Preston Street

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 N. Rockton Ave.

Northwest Community Center, 1325 N. Johnston Ave.

Orton Keyes Boys and Girls Club, 633 Ranger St.

Patriots' Gateway Community Center, 615 S. 5th St.

RESA Youth & Teen Program, 1800 Ogilby Rd.

Ridge Park, 3317 Ridge Ave.

Riverview Ice House, 324 N. Madison St.

Rockford Housing Authority/Blackhawk, 330 – 15th Ave.

St. Elizabeth Community Center, 1536 S. Main St.

Salvation Army, 210 Kilburn Ave.

Sawyer Playground, 2249 Sawyer Rd.

Second/First Church, 318 N. Church St.

Washington Park Recreation Center, 3617 Delaware St.

YMCA (ID Pennock), 200 Y Blvd.

YMCA (Camp Winnebago), 5804 N. Main St.

YMCA (Teen Reach), 1325 N. Johnston Ave.

Loves Park

Carlson Boys and Girls Club, 1028 Evans Ave.

Rockford Area City Church-YMCA 5375 Pebble Creek Trail

Wantz Park, 600 Clifford Ave.

YMCA Northeast Branch, 8451 Orth Rd.

Boone County

Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry, 200 S. Fifth Street, Capron

Boone County Health Department, 1204 Logan Avenue, Belvidere

Capron Lions Club, 305 E. North St., Capron

City of Belvidere-City Hall, 401 Whitney Blvd., Belvidere

First United Methodist Church, 610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere

St. John's United Church of Christ, 401 N. Main St., Belvidere

Poplar Grove United Methodist Church, 105 E. Grove St., Poplar Grove

South Beloit

South Beloit Boys and Girls Club, 1161 Dorr Rd.

In accordance with Federal Law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the City of Rockford and the participating summer food sites are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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