



# SUMMER TIMES

A Newsletter for SFSP Sponsors in Indiana

May 2014 Edition

Thank you all for attending SFSP training for the 2014 year! We are already looking at ways to improve the training for next year. We appreciate your patience with our scheduling errors.

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## **We want your pictures!**

If you have pictures of successes for your SFSP, we want to show them off in the next newsletter! Share some pictures of kick-off events or other fun activities you have planned at your feeding sites. Please ensure that children's faces are not close ups unless a media release has been signed by the parent.

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## **Evansville-Vanderburgh Grant Opportunity**

Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation was awarded a grant that allowed FSD Linda Edison to purchase bus stop advertisements to advertise their SFSP offerings. The ads can be seen on 9 bus stop shelters and 5 bus stop benches and beginning in June, the ads will appear on eight buses! Additionally, at each site, they have a banner listing the details of the food service times and dates. This is the perfect way to advertise open feeding sites. Thanks for sharing, Linda!



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**Need some fun event ideas to boost participation this summer?** USDA Team Nutrition has put together a Popular Events Booklet!

The booklet includes:

- Over 20 ideas for small and large even themes
- Handouts, Templates and other resources for you event
- Ways to team up for greater success

Free print copies of this booklet are available to schools who participate in the National School Lunch Program, but anyone can access the PDF version now for ideas!

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/popular-events-booklet>

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## **Additional Administrative Guidance Manuals**

We have some extra USDA Administrative Guidance Manuals. If you would like some sent to your organization, we would be happy to mail them you to. Please contact Tina or Gretchen to request some copies.

Unfortunately, we do not have the monitor's guide or site supervisor's guides, however, those guides are available to print along with the administrative manual online:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks>

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## **Non-Program Adult Meals**

Please ensure that you have a set price for non-program adult meals. If you elect to have a "Free Will Offering" to fund non-program adult meals, the offering must cover the expense of those meals as set by your meal price. The reconciliation can be completed at the end of the month, but if at the end of the month, the monies coming in do not cover the cost of your non-program adult meals, you must show the cost for those meals covered from an account that is not the non-profit food service account.

## **For Open Sites with Programming**

If program children go on a field trip you are responsible for operating an open site for community members who may come for a meal. This means you will need to send one meal count sheet with the field trip meals and have one person remain at the site with another meal count sheet for community members. It is important that open sites truly operate as such because open site information is given to several resources for community members to find places open for free meals.

## **One More Time...**

Please, please, please (with a cherry on top!) Don't forget to check all of your site information in CNPweb including meal times and site supervisor information.

We can recite this next part together, ready? "Failure to have correct information in CNPweb will result in disallowed meals." We don't like to have to disallow meals as much as you don't like not being reimbursed for meals that you served! Please make sure every entry in CNPweb is correct!

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## Is your school a Fuel Up Play 60 school?

The Indiana Dairy council has some coolers to distribute for Fuel Up Play 60 participants. For additional information please contact Michelle Plummer at [plummer@winnersdrinkmilk.com](mailto:plummer@winnersdrinkmilk.com) or (317) 842-3060.

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## Spotlight on: Gleaners Food Bank

### **Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana** **By Eddie Oliver, Programs Manager**



**G L E A N E R S**

In 2013, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana's summer feeding program, *Summer Meals for Kids*, built upon the successes of its 2012 pilot program to expand participation and increase access to high-quality nutrition for food insecure youth. With the generous support of the ConAgra Foods Foundation, Gleaners more than doubled its meal output over 2012 by expanding innovative practices and implementing new models to improve both outreach and site access in rural communities.

Grant funds supported 14 sites in Fayette, Jefferson, Jennings, and Union Counties. Gleaners also sponsored SFSP sites in Austin, Greenfield, and Versailles. All of the communities served by Gleaners are similar in that they have high rates of child food insecurity and are characterized by extreme barriers to food access for youth, especially during the summer.



By far, Gleaners saw the biggest improvement in participation in the small southern town of Hanover. In 2012, Gleaners provided free lunches Monday – Friday at Hanover Southwestern Elementary. The site was open to any child 18 and under but only served a total of 435 meals, despite the fact that free transportation to the site was provided by Southwestern Jefferson County Schools. In 2013, we decided to change things up and bring the food directly to the kids

where they live, instead of trying to bring the kids to the food. The school provided three of its buses as mobile SFSP sites at a total of four different locations in Hanover. Each bus parked in a high-need community and children were allowed to come onto the bus to sit and eat in a safe, air-conditioned environment. Gleaners provided meals and coolers and equipped the buses with “musical horns” to

announce their arrival. We soon realized that the new program model was making a difference, and by the end of the summer, we had served 1,194 meals – a 127% increase!

Additionally, Gleaners provided children with punch cards on the first day they attended a site. Each day the child attended, his or her card was punched. On the 10<sup>th</sup> punch, the child received a small toy in order to reward program participation. A child received a bonus hole punch for bringing a friend to the site, which served as a form of peer-to-peer outreach. The punch card opportunity was a huge hit with program participants and survey data showed that it contributed to strong participation.



One story from Hanover last year showed the real impact of the program and reminds us every day why we do what we do:

*“One little girl has several people who give her support even when her home life is unstable. She came every day to the Summer Meal site to eat and play with the other kids. She and her mother are disabled and this little girl relied on these meals for her food. The school that she goes to checks in on her and makes sure she has clothes to wear, and they go out of their way to help her and her mother throughout the year. Without school being in session she loses much of her support but this year this program provided her with food and a friendly support system of kids and volunteers. It allowed the people who care about her know that she at least got a meal every day and there were people there to show her love and kindness.”*

**State Agency Note:** Building on the success of last year, Gleaners Food Bank is adding 10 additional sites in 2014, including expanding its mobile sites to previously uncovered areas. Great work, Gleaners!



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