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MEDIA RELEASE

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Food That's In When School Is Out ***2012 Summer Food Service Program Begins***

Rockford - The City of Rockford Human Services Department announces the beginning of the 2012 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to be held at 26 sites that offer summer activities for children. The SFSP is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. It is the largest federal resource available for local programs that combines mealtime with recreational and educational activities. The City of Rockford Human Services Department manages the program locally, with Preferred Meal Systems providing the meals and snacks.

During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. Hunger also may make 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.

The SFSP participating sites include non-profit organizations and local recreation centers that are either in close proximity to a school where over 50% of the children receive free/reduced lunch, or the sites serve a group of children where most of them are from low-income families. The SFSP enables these sites to offer nutritious lunches and snacks to children ages 18 and under as part of their summer programming. Please contact the participating sites for their individual program details.

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.

2012 Summer Food Site List

Beattie Playground, 1221 Rural Street, Rockford
Blackhawk Boys and Girls Club, 330 15th Ave., Rockford
Booker Washington, 524 Kent Street, Rockford
Churchill Park, 2002 7th Ave., Rockford
Fairgrounds Valley, 1015 W. Jefferson Street, Rockford
First Evangelical Covenant Church, 316 Wood Street, Rockford
Flodin Boys and Girls Club, 1000 Mill Road, Rockford
Ken-Rock Community Center, 3218 11th Street, Rockford
Keye Mallquist Park, 1702 11th Street, Rockford
Morning Star Baptist Church, 714 3rd Avenue, Rockford
New Zion Baptist Church, 604 Salter Avenue, Rockford
Northwest Community Center, 1325 N. Johnston Avenue, Rockford
Orton Keys Community Center, 633 Ranger Street, Rockford
Patriots Gateway Center, 615 S. 5th Street, Rockford
RESA Youth and Teen Program (Rockford Park District), 1800 Ogilby Road, Rockford
Rock Valley College-Upward Bound, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford
Rockford Boys and Girls-2nd Congregational Church, 318 N. Church Street Rockford
Rockford Park District-Lewis Lemon, 1993 Mulberry Street, Rockford
Salvation Army, 210 Kilburn Avenue, Rockford
St. Elizabeth Community Center, 1536 S. Main Street, Rockford
St. Paul Church of God in Christ, 1001 Bishop Washington, Rockford
Washington Park Rec. Center, 3617 Delaware, Rockford
YMCA-Camp Winnebago, 5804 N. Main Street Rockford
Northeast Family YMCA, 8451 Orth Road, Loves Park
YMCA-Teen Reach at West Middle School, 1900 N. Rockton Avenue, Rockford

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