



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **COMMUNITY ACTION TACKLES FOOD INSECURITY THROUGH SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM**

ROCKFORD, IL – Efforts to meet the growing problem of food insecurity in the community are getting a boost with an expansion of the program that brings free lunches and snacks to area children when school is out. Forty-eight non-profit organizations and local recreation centers in Winnebago and Boone Counties will be participating in Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), up from 38 last year. SFSP sites offer nutritious lunches and snacks to children ages 18 and under as part of its summer programming.

“We are thrilled that ten additional sites agreed to participate this year, plus we expanded our coverage in the Boone County area,” said Christopher Greenwood, Community Health and Prevention for Community Action of Boone and Winnebago Counties. “Along with the Rockford School District’s recent decision to allow all students to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost to them, our children will have a more seamless opportunity toward better health to help them to reach their highest potential.”

Summer Food sites are either in close proximity to a school where more than 50 percent of the children are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch, or the sites serve a group of children where most of them are from low-income families. In the Rockford School District alone, 83 percent of the nearly 29,000 students qualify for free or reduced meal prices. Nationally, more than 21 million children rely on free or reduced priced meals provided by the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during the school year, but only 3.8 million participate in USDA's summer meal programs, now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year. Illinois is one of 13 states targeted to expand the reach of the summer meal programs. These states were chosen because they have high levels of rural and urban food insecurity and/or reduced program participation.

“We appreciate the public-private partnerships we are building among the summer food sites and their willingness to serve the community by feeding and engaging our children,” continued Greenwood. “Our united efforts in combatting hunger in our community will certainly make a difference.”

Community Action also received a \$3,500 grant from No Kid Hungry to distribute sports kits to summer food sites to further enhance the kids' summer activities.

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)

**2015 Summer Food Sites for Winnebago and Boone Counties**  
Residents should contact the participating sites for their individual  
program details and lunch/snack schedule.

**Rockford**

Barbour Language Academy, 1506 Clover Ave.  
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.  
Christ the Carpenter United Methodist Church, 1000 S. Winnebago St.  
Churchill Park, 2002 – 7th Ave.  
Creative Expressions Development, 220 S. Madison 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.  
Ken-Rock Community Center, 3218 – 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
Keye-Mallquist Park, 1702 – 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lewis Lemon/Rockford Park District, 1993 Mulberry St.  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 N. Rockton Ave.  
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 404 N. Avon St.  
Northwest Community Center, 1325 N. Johnston Ave.  
Orton Keyes Boys and Girls Club, 633 Ranger St.  
Our Masters United Methodist Church, 5973 Darlene  
Patriots' Gateway Community Center, 615 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1703 S. Central Ave.  
Providence Baptist Church, 2209 Clifton Ave.  
RESA Youth & Teen Program, 1800 Ogilby Rd.  
Ridge Park, 3317 Ridge Ave.  
Riverview Ice House, 324 N. Madison St.  
Rockford Housing Authority/Blackhawk, 330 – 15<sup>th</sup> 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.  
Temple of Islam, 119 S. Central Ave.  
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.

Wantz Park, 600 Clifford Ave.

YMCA Northeast Branch, 8451 Orth Rd.

**Boone County**

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

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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