EXCELLENCE IN SUMMER MEALS

SUMMER 2018 RECOGNIZED SPONSORS

TEXASHUNGER INITIATIVE
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

FRAC
Food Research & Action Center

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
More than half of the children in North Texas receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year, but although these children are all eligible, only a fraction currently get meals in the summertime through the federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The Excellence in Summer Meals Campaign is designed to increase child participation through the promotion of best practices in meal provision. The Campaign annually evaluates Summer Meals providers and recognizes those who meet bronze, silver or gold levels of excellence.

There are three categories of best practices that are evaluated—programming and operations, food quality, and marketing and outreach. Providers are also judged based on the satisfaction of the staff at the meal sites who coordinate with providers to distribute meals.

**Programming and Operations** – One of the key best practices for increasing child participation in the Summer Meals Program is having meal sites offer fun and engaging activities along with the free meal. Other best practices in this area include offering meals at least five days a week and throughout the summer.

**Food Quality** – Providing food that is both appealing to children and nutritious is critical to the success of the Summer Meals program. Best practices in this area include offering children a varied menu, including children in the menu selection process, and serving fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Marketing and Outreach** – Even the best programs will fail if parents and children do not know about them. Best practices for outreach to children include site-specific marketing strategies, tailored messages for teens and bilingual materials.

The Excellence in Summer Meals Campaign is an initiative of the Dallas Office of the Texas Hunger Initiative, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

For more information about the Excellence in Summer Meals Campaign, contact Catherine Nicholson at catherine_nicholson@baylor.edu.
Azle ISD

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2016
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 5
Looking to Add Sites
This Summer? No

Azle Independent School District in partnership with SFE LLC worked to provide safe serving sites with nutritious fresh meals, with hearty amounts of fresh produce, to help the children of Azle maintain a healthy and happy summer. Azle ISD received the Feeding Texas Grant last year, to pay off negative balances within the district. They also were nominated for the Fixed Meal Rate Contract of the year in December 2018.

Contact: General Manager Almarie Rivera 682-888-8676 or arrivera@azleisd.net

Circle of Support, Inc.

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 4th year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2011
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 1
Looking to Add Sites
This Summer? No

Circle of Support offers an eight-week Girl S.M.A.R.T. and S.M.A.R.T. Boys Summer Learning Program. The program prevents summer learning loss and closes the opportunity gap for boys and girls in Southern Dallas. Circle of Support works in partnership with over 35 organizations in the Dallas area.

Contact: Bernadette Nutall at bwnutall@yahoo.com
CitySquare

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 4th year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 2007
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 145
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

CitySquare fights the causes and effects of poverty through service, advocacy, and friendship. Together as a community of neighbors, CitySquare feeds the hungry, heals the sick, houses the homeless, and renews hope in the heart of our city. CitySquare’s programs connected with food include SFSP summer meals, CACFP afterschool meals, a food pantry and a hospitality job training program. For summer meals, CitySquare partners with Texas Department of Agriculture, OneStar Foundation, and PepsiCo Food for Good.

Contact: Kay Thomason at 469-904-7021

Dallas ISD

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 3rd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served: Many Years
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 212
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Hunger doesn’t take a break in summer, and neither does the Dallas ISD Food & Child Nutrition Services department. Our goal is to provide tasty, nutritious meals to as many children as we can during the summer months to support their health and well-being.

In addition to Summer Meals, the district serves breakfast, lunch and CACFP afterschool and school break meals during the rest of the year. Some of our significant partners include Texas Hunger Initiative, United Way, and the Urban School Food Alliance.

Contact: Julie Farris at jufarris@dallasisd.org or 214-932-5543
Dayspring Family Church

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 3rd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 2005
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 15
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Dayspring Family Church Summer Feeding provides meals during the summer to help the children in their community. They partner with several apartment complexes, a local recreation center and other non-profit food donors. Dayspring also has an on-site food pantry and conducts a major Thanksgiving Outreach that serves 2000 families. “The heat and sheer volume make it a challenging task, but it’s worth every moment of challenge to see the children’s smiling faces. It feels great to make an impact and provide nutritious food as well as positive role models, encouragement, and mentoring for the children.”

Contact: Sonjia Dickerson at dfcsummerfeeding@yahoo.com or 972-399-7729

Garland ISD

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 2nd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 1997
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 16
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? No

Besides providing summer meals to the students of the community, Garland ISD served almost 3 million student breakfasts and 130,000 afterschool meals. They partner with Children at Risk, the Texas Hunger Initiative, Culinary Institute of America, and Healthy Kids Collaborative. Garland ISD currently has 23 schools operating under the Community Eligibility Provision, where all meals are served to students at no charge. Additionally, Garland ISD was recognized as one of the top 10 middle income districts by Children at Risk.

Contact: Jennifer Craig at jm CRAIG@garlandisd.net
Irving ISD

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 3rd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 2014
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 26
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Irving ISD - Food & Nutrition Services provides meals year-round, including breakfast, lunch, afterschool snacks and supper during the school year. They have partnered with community locations such as the City of Irving Recreation Centers and the Irving YMCA for the last several years to serve nutritious summer meals. Their 2016 Summer Meals program was rated “Excellent” by the Texas Department of Agriculture for demonstrating extreme proficiency in all areas of program operations and achieving outstanding results on an Administrative Review.

Contact: Olga Rosenberger at orosenberger@irvingisd.net or 972-600-6915

Kids Bring Life, Inc.

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2014
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 35
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Kids Bring Life, Inc has been focused on promoting academic achievement by eliminating hunger since 2014. Kids Bring Life prides itself on feeding children a variety of hot, healthy nutritious meals year-round in both the Summer Food Service Program and the CACFP Afterschool Program so that children may concentrate on achievements in the classroom. Kids Bring Life, Inc. partners include the Parks and Recreation Departments and Boys & Girls Clubs of Dallas, Carrollton, Grand Prairie, Richardson, Mesquite and Duncanville. Kids Bring Life, Inc. is also a recipient of the Summer Meals Enrichment Grant and North Texas Summer & Supper Council grant funded by the United Way.

Contact information: Carlette Armstrong at 214-380-5414 or carmstrong@kidsbringlife.org
Neighborhood Project Ministry

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 3rd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2013
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 24
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Neighborhood Project Ministry (NPM) served over 38,000 meals in the summer of 2018. NPM was responsible for 24 sites and is excited to expand their summer nutrition program throughout the DFW Metroplex. In addition to Summer Meals, NPM has partnered with 2nd Saturday to provide home repairs and restoration within the Dallas community for low-income seniors, veterans, and disabled individuals. NPM also offers a free tax preparation program for seniors and distributes toys to disadvantaged children through the US Marines Toys for Tots Program.

Contact: Lisa Sanders at info@npm4000.org or 469-386-5455

North Texas Food Bank

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 4th year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 2002
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 37
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

The North Texas Food Bank is a hunger relief organization that provides access to more than 190,000 meals each day through a network of more than 200 partner agencies and 1,000 programs. Their child programs team operates Summer Meals, CACFP Afterschool Meals, their Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, and a School Pantry Program. Children participating in NTFB’s Summer Meals sites also receive weekend Food 4 Kids Backpacks and fresh produce deliveries throughout the summer.

Contact: Madison Messinger at Madison.Messinger@ntfb.org or 214-572-4032
Plano ISD

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for 2nd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2002
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 6
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? No

Plano ISD is dedicated to enhancing their student’s education by providing nutritious quality meals and an environment that encourages students to broaden their knowledge to support making lifelong healthy food choices. In addition to Summer Meals, they participate in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for pre-k and at-risk supper sites. Plano ISD also has dietetic partnerships with Texas Woman’s University, UT Southwestern, and the Department of Public Health – WIC. Plano ISD has received several awards and recognitions through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Texas Association of School Nutrition (TASN) for their outstanding service and organization!

Contact: Meredith Bolin at Meredith.Bolin@pisd.edu; 469-752-5793
Carrolton-Farmers Branch ISD

• Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: At least 20 years
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 10
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Carrolton-Farmers Branch ISD Student Nutrition Department is proud to provide students healthy and delicious meals to promote student achievement. The Student Nutrition Department not only serves Summer Meals, but the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program, as well. The management team serving our customers has successfully completed state and nationally recognized certification classes in food safety, food systems management and nutrition. The Student Nutrition Department has approximately 240 employees working in 35 cafeterias, which serve just under one million breakfasts and over three million lunches to our students each year.

Contact: https://cfbisd.edu/nutrition-services/

Custer Road United Methodist Church

• Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2012
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 1
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? No

Custer Road United Methodist Church (CRUMC) Summer Lunch Program has served 7,600 meals to children using a grant given by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The organization also has provided 2,300 adult meals and 1,800 weekend food bags to families. CRUMC partners with the Texas Department of Agriculture and Nestle.

Contact: summerlunch@crumc.org

Dallas County Mobile Food Pantry

• Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2018
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 1
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? Yes

The Dallas County Mobile Food Pantry works hard to provide safe serving sites with nutritious meals to help children of Dallas County maintain a healthy and happy summer. They partner with the DeSoto Food Pantry to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to children that participate in their program. They aim to serve their community and are eager to reach more!

Contact: Karen Shaw at dallascounty-mfp@att.net or 214-934-1744
Destiny Empowerment Enterprises

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2016
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 1
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Destiny Empowerment Enterprises Inc. is dedicated to ensuring the continued growth and development of communities throughout the Greater Arlington area and Tarrant County. Through their community partnerships, Destiny Empowerment Enterprises Inc. works to more effectively tackle the needs and concern of the public through the programs they offer. Destiny Empowerment Enterprises, Inc. is committed in helping equip, mentor, and empower the children and families they serve.

Contact: Tangela Joseph at 817-472-9939

Equal Heart

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for the 4th year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2015
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 211
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? No

Equal Heart provides Summer Meals as well as CACFP Afterschool Meals. Their many partners include United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, AmeriCorps, Dallas Parks and Recreation, and the Dallas Public Library. Since 2015, Equal Heart has been the largest non-profit Summer Meals sponsor in Texas, providing meals to over 10,000 children each year. They utilize innovative IT solutions which significantly reduce time on task for onsite personnel. Equal Heart has received numerous recognitions, including being a United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Ground Floor Fellow for 2015-2016 and winning a 2015 People's Choice Award from Heart of Dallas Young Professionals.

Contact: Renee Caldwell at renee@equalheart.org or 469-526-3645

Fort Worth ISD

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: Many years
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 56
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? No

Fort Worth ISD serves approximately 55,000 lunches and 30,000 breakfasts daily to their students. 96% of their 134 campuses operate under Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows students to be served meals at no charge. Fort Worth ISD not only serves Summer Meals, but also serves the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program. They were a National School Breakfast 2018 Contest Winner for National School Breakfast Week Menu and past award recipient for TDA Local Products Challenge. Fort Worth ISD partners with the City of Fort Worth and Blue Zones.

Contact: Angela Lowe at angela.lowe@fwisd.org
Grand Prairie ISD

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for the 3rd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2012
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 6
Looking to Add Sites This Summer? No

In addition to Summer Meals, Grand Prairie ISD Child Nutrition serves breakfast and lunch during the school year. The school district partners with Southwest Foodservice Excellence LLC to manage their child nutrition program. Registered dietitians design the menu to be creative, diverse, appealing and appetizing, while controlling food costs and minimizing waste. Menus are 100% nutrition-focused. The menus are designed not only to meet, but to exceed the nutrient requirements for students to grow properly.

Contact: Nicole Pannell at catherine.pannell@gpisd.org

Mansfield ISD

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 2015
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 10
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Mansfield Independent School District proudly provides breakfast, lunch, and after-school meals to their students. They proudly shop local, high-quality, fresh ingredients, that they use in their made-from-scratch menu, prepared and served by over 300 food service professionals. Mansfield ISD partners with Common Ground Network to fight food insecurity within their community and MISD Tarver Rendon School for Agricultural Leadership to offer homegrown fruits and veggies. Mansfield ISD is the proud recipient of a Perfect Procurement Review and TDA Local Foods Challenge.

Contact: 817-299-6040 and ask for Rita Denton or Sondra Thomas

Mesquite ISD

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for the 2nd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 1995
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 23
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? No

Mesquite ISD Food and Nutrition Services works closely with the coordinator of the summer school program to ensure meals are available at all summer school sites. This program is a valuable and relied on source during the summer for all the children throughout our city. The FNS staff members are anxious to work during their summer months. They are ready to prepare and serve a hot, balanced meal in a cool comfortable setting. MISD FNS participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program in addition to the Summer Meals program.

Contact: Supervisor of Summer Food Service Program at kdlem@mesquiteisd.org or 972-882-5512
Safe Hands Family & Children

- Recognized for Excellence in Summer Meals for the 3rd year in a row
- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2007
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 29
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? Yes

The programs of Safe Hands are rooted in the concept that all people should live in a safe and healthy community. In addition to Summer Meals, Safe Hands also provides Afterschool Meals and snacks at a variety of sites. They offer afterschool, senior and adult programs on-site at apartment complexes through a partnership with apartment managers and owners. Their youth programs include children’s life skills classes, field trips, homework assistance and academic programs. They recently partnered with Big Thought, Noggin, Youth Works, community churches and an arts and entertainment group to provide a variety of programs and services to their sites for the summer of 2017.

Contact: Debra Cornelius at admin@safehandsinc.org or 972-296-4263
Full Filled Project, Inc.

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children, as well as sites only for children enrolled in a program

Summer Meals Served Since: 2016
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 14
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Full Filled Project provides summer meals as well as CACFP after school meals. Full Filled Project is also a food vendor under the National Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. Full Filled Project is excited to partner with Passion for Science which has a network of 16 PhD’s whose passion is to lead hands on STEAM activities with students participating in our programs. The organization partners with student volunteers from Collin College as well as teachers and staff from elementary schools in Collin County who serve as mentors to the children they serve and lead educational activities through the summer. Full Filled Project would also like to highlight that all menus they serve are planned based on input from the children they serve.

Contact: Leticia Diwa at ldiwa@fullfilledproject.org or 214-293-1069

Village Hands & Hearts, Inc.

- Provides meal service to sites open to all community children

Summer Meals Served Since: 2014
Summer Meal Sites In 2018: 8
Looking To Add Sites This Summer? Yes

Village Hands & Hearts, Inc believes it is their mission to focus on the health and welfare of our children by providing them with a jump start to healthy nutritious food opportunities. They believe that a healthy body leads to a healthy diet. By instituting healthy eating practices, they are developing strong bones and better mind stimulation and mental functions, as well as positive oral hygiene intake at an age where best practices are easily learned. Village Hands and Hearts, Inc is also a CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals provider and partners with the City of Grand Prairie, the City of Duncanville, and the City of Dallas.

Contact: villagehh@gmail.com
About Texas Hunger Initiative:

Baylor University’s Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) is a capacity-building, collaborative project dedicated to developing and implementing strategies to end hunger and reduce poverty through policy, education, research, community organizing and community development. THI convenes federal, state and local government stakeholders with nonprofits, faith communities and business leaders to create an efficient system of accountability that increases food security in Texas.

THI has eight regional offices throughout Texas located in: Austin, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, McAllen, San Angelo, and Waco.

About Food Research and Action Center:

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is the leading national nonprofit organization working to improve public policies and public-private partnerships to eradicate hunger and undernutrition in the United States. From its base in Washington, D.C., FRAC works with hundreds of national, state and local nonprofit organizations, public agencies, corporations and labor organizations to address hunger, food insecurity, and their root cause, poverty. FRAC pursues a comprehensive strategy through research, policy analysis and advocacy, training and technical assistance for stakeholders nationwide, and public information campaigns to promote changes in attitude and policy.

About United Way of Metropolitan Dallas:

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (UWMD) is a nonprofit on a mission to change lives forever in our community by investing in three interconnected areas: education, financial stability, and health. They tackle tough issues that make a lasting difference here in North Texas, and we create opportunities for our community to succeed – like graduating from college and preparing career-ready teens; helping folks find jobs and keep more of what they earn; enabling access to quality health care; and ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home. UWMD funds more than 170 of the most effective local programs that work together to create change that lasts.