SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM!

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created to ensure that children in lower-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs. The Summer Food Service Program is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provides funding to cover the cost of the meals at eligible sites.

Food Gatherers is the largest sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program for children in Washtenaw County. Free meals will be made available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency. The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Last summer, 35,991 meals and snacks were served to children in Washtenaw County! The picture to the right shows paper plates decorated by children and their families, which were used to show our legislators how important SFSP is to our community. Some kids drew that summer food helps them have the energy to do the things they love in the summer, like swim and play basketball!

For more information regarding the Summer Food Service Program, please call Food Gatherers at (734) 761-2796, or email LeRonica Roberts, Community Food Programs Coordinator, at summerfood@foodgatherers.org.
INTERVIEW WITH SFSP COORDINATOR, LeRonica Roberts

What is your favorite part about the SFSP program? The positive energy with the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites that is generated during start up. Also doing special events such as Family Night.

What was the coolest thing that happened last year at a SFSP site or event? Being able to serve meals to the kids in the evening at the Ballin’ events which is hosted by the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department.

Is there anything new happening for this summer? Every site will do a celebration kick off event to start the summer program. A special meal will be provided on the first day and sites will receive a fun tote with sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, coloring books, balls, streamers and balloons! We want to provide activities to kids while they visit and get meals because studies have shown when there activities at the summer site, the participation is higher.

About how many sites do you manage in the summer? 20-25 sites.

What kind of sites do you serve? Food Gatherers serves open and closed sites. Open sites are open to the general public, like a library, and closed sites require enrollment, like a summer camp.

Open Sites are able serve all children without having to ask for their family household income, but they must serve children in geographical areas where 50 percent or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals. The census data website provided by USDA is used to establish area eligibility for the site (https://www.fns.usda.gov/areaeligibility)

Closed Sites serve only an identified group of children enrolled at the site. To qualify as a closed enrolled site, at least 50 percent of the enrolled children must be from households that meet the income eligibility guidelines.

How do I become a summer food site this summer and help provide meals to kids? If your site is located in Washtenaw County, contact the SFSP Department at Food Gatherers to see if your site is eligible. If you are not eligible to become a site we will connect you to a site that is closest to you so you can help provide meals there!

For more information about the Summer Food Service Program: Phone: 734-761-2796 Email: summerfood@foodgatherers.org

How can I find out where to get a free meal for my kids? Food Gatherers will be listing all the site locations, hours and phone number on our website at www.foodgatherers.org/summerfood You can also find a listing of all summer food sites throughout Michigan by using the Meet Up and Eat Up Site Locator: http://www.mcci.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/
**STAMP OUT HUNGER**

**What?** A national food drive organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Americans participate by leaving a sturdy bag on non-perishable foods next to their mailboxes prior to the time of regular mail delivery on Saturday, May 13th, 2017. The nation’s 210,000 letter carriers collect donations and deliver them to local hunger-relief organizations, including Food Gatherers.

**When?** Second Saturday in May (May 13th, 2017)

**MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:**

- Low Sodium Hearty Soups (Beef Stew, Chili, etc.)
- Low Sodium Canned Meats (Tuna Fish, Chicken, etc.)
- Low Sodium or No Salt Canned Vegetables
- Canned or Packaged Pasta
- Beans (Canned or Dry)
- Rice
- Cereal & Oatmeal
- Granola Bars
- Nut Butters or Jelly (Plastic Jars)
- Baby Food & Formula (Plastic Containers)
- Ensure® & Other Nutritional Supplement Drinks

**GRILLIN’: A FUNDRAISER FOR FOOD GATHERERS**

**When?** Sunday, June 11th from 3:00—8:00pm

**Where?** Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
5055 Ann Arbor Saline Road

**What?** Feast on delicious foods hot off the grill, along with sides, salads, desserts, beer & wine. Enjoy live music, family friendly activities and a silent auction — it's a not-to-be missed summer picnic!

**Why?** While Grillin’ is a light-hearted, family fun event, its mission is serious: fighting hunger in Washtenaw County. It is a critical event in raising awareness and support for our food rescue and food bank program.

Attend as a guest or volunteer, either way you will get to enjoy Grillin’! Watch the [Grillin’ video](#) to see what the picnic is like!

**Ticket Prices**

- $75 for adults (age 14+)
- $10 for kids (ages 3-13; kids under 3 are free).

**Phone:** 734-761-2796

**Email:** info@foodgatherers.org

**Website:** [www.foodgatherers.org/grillin](http://www.foodgatherers.org/grillin)

**Buy Tickets Now**

**SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER AT GRILLIN’**
Made with love by the Community Food Programs Department

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