

Weed Summer Food Program

Great Northern Services contact: Crystal Aston 938-4115 ext 126

Forum Notes - May 13, 2015

Outcomes for Meeting

- Identify opportunities for expanding access to summer meals in 2015
- Brainstorm ideas and resources to address and act on opportunities/innovation
- Solidify roles and commitments for summer meals activities
- Get to know each other

Welcome and Sign In/Introductions

20 attendees - in addition to individuals, attendees represented the following: Great Northern Services (GNS), Weed Elementary School (WES) kitchen, Berean Church, Grace Presbyterian Church, Shasta Head Start, Scott Valley Bank (SVB), Intern from First 5 Siskiyou, WIC, Montague Rotary, Siskiyou Food Assistance (SFA), County Supervisor Ed Valenzuela

Assessment: Where are we starting in 2015

Renee Casterline, Community Food Program Manager at GNS described the Snack Bag Program carried out in McCloud, Dunsmuir and Weed for Spring Break. Kids pack snacks for take home over time periods when school is out of session or testing periods. Funded in part by Pacific Power Foundation and Shasta Regional Community Foundation.

Crystal Aston, Summer Food Service contact for GNS sponsorship of the Program described the USDA Summer Food Program and why it is a good fit for Weed and Siskiyou County. In Weed 87% of students are of the free or reduced meal programs at our local schools. This means that in the summer or when away from school they often go hungry and lack access to regular nutritious meals. The Summer Lunch Program is planned to provide sack lunches to children 18 and under without discrimination or restriction. GNS has applied for funding that only partially covers the purchase of food and operational costs to run this program June 22 – August 17. Cooperation, support and commitment of local businesses, service groups, churches, volunteers and individuals will be needed to make the program possible. One goal is to make a usable model for other communities in the county to run this USDA Summer Program in their communities, stopping hunger for our kids all around the county.

Visioning the Best Summer Ever!

Children are active and healthy in summer programs run at the pool and in the park. They receive and eat nutritious lunches during the work week and return to school in the fall ready to learn. Families have reduced stress trying to make ends meet with the added costs of having kids at home during the summer and away from free and reduced cost meals during the school year.

Opportunities for 2015

- Use of Facebook page to connect kids, parents and businesses
- Flyers at schools
- Flyers going out to kids during sports sign-ups, Junior Giants program (Mike Rodriguez, event at the park? Kim and Garvin Hanon)
- Story time @ lunch, library/First 5
- Sports activities: High School and COS athletes to get kids involved

- Kelsea – HS soccer camps – can do events at the park?
- Swim meet /swim team connections

Commitments and Next Steps

Meal Prep at Weed Elementary

Nutrition Coordinator:

Volunteers: Kathryn Andrus, Denise Spayd at SFA will get more, Vicky Zanni

Betty – church may be able to generate funds to cover adult volunteer’s meal costs.

Meal Distribution at Bel Air Park

Coordinator:

Volunteers: Anna (SVB), Kathryn Andrus, Denise Spayd (SFA) will get more , Vicky Zanni, Jenna Marshall

Prize Drawing Round Up – 33 items

Volunteers: Anna (SVB), Kathryn (Bob Manley)

Contacts: Rotary Clubs, Weed, Mt. Shasta, Shasta Valley, Yreka, Montague (fyi, Rotary president change over on July 1st)

Activities at Bel Air Park

Coordinator: Volunteers: Anna (SVB) – Piggy Bank Bean Toss

Volunteers: Kathryn Andrus (in connection with Mt. Shasta High School Interact)

Ann Herfindahl has hula hoops to donate

Questions and Insights

- USDA’s role? Reimbursement costs per meal served from USDA to GNS is \$3.41 and that is to cover food and program costs. Underfunded program needs community support to run.
- How do we address feeding adults or others that need food?
- Do volunteers eat too?
- Can we get food from partners that supply food to local food banks?
- Safety of kids, especially around Carnevale set up time?
- How to identify volunteers who are part of the program?
- How much would adult meals cost and can that money be donated?
- Can we feed grandparents, parents and caregivers that are with kids when they come?
- Advertise vs. “supervised” for activities. We are providing food, not supervision or babysitting.
- Contact Scotty at YMCA for recommendation of students in Weed that could help
- Musician Roy Lisker (954) 682-4277 offered music during activities
- How to solicit volunteers and plan for schedule so all don’t have to sign up for the whole service period?

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Important dates/Activities we know about:

June 12 – last day of school

June 13 – car show, downtown Weed

June 16th – Summer Food Program TRAINING DATE FOR VOLUNTEERS

June 22 – Summer Food Program scheduled start

Vacation Bible School over at noon during the week of June 22nd

Tuesday and Thursday outings for 4-5-6 grade kids in afternoons

July 6 – 10 – Carnevale set up and event – NO BEL AIR PARK LUNCHESES

July 14th WIC clinic at COS

July 17 – Swim meet at Weed pool? (ask Mike R.)

August 11 – WIC at COS

August 12 – 16 Siskiyou Golden Fair

August 14 – Last Day

Thanks and Closing

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