



Extension Snapshot

FEEDING HUNGRY KIDS

The comment "I'm hungry" from a child at a summer youth soccer program prompted a concerned volunteer to present an idea to her church. As a result of past summer feeding programs not operating this year, it was suggested Friendship House needed help feeding its summer camp children, many of whom brought no lunch to eat. This resulted in a partnership: "Lunch for Kids." This partnership included First United Methodist Church, Peoria Friendship House and the University of Illinois Extension.

This group prepared and served approximately 50-60 lunches daily for youth under age 18 at Peoria Friendship House. The lunches included sandwiches, a serving of fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, milk and a cookie. Extra lunches were prepared to be offered to walk-in clients.

The project started July 5th and ran through August 19th. After this date Peoria District 150 schools will return to session, at which time youth will have lunches provided in school on a free and reduced lunch fee basis.

Approximately 1,800 meals were served in the six weeks of operation. With donations, volunteer help and careful shopping, the partnership was able to cover the cost of these lunches for under \$1,000.

The University of Illinois Extension contributed by sending staff to help prepare and serve lunches and assist with food safety in preparation. Extension also volunteered to do the grocery shopping and take the lead in preparing and serving lunches for a week in July while the church volunteers were involved with other programs. Volunteers at Friendship House during mealtime were impressed with the many "thank you's" they heard from the children being served.



For more information about the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in the Fulton, Mason, Peoria and Tazewell Unit, please contact Margaret Cover, Extension Educator, EFNEP, at mcover@illinois.edu or 309-685-3140.



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