



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake Reminds Residents Free Summer Meals are Still Available

Wake County today reminded residents that there is still time for children and teens to take advantage of free meals through the [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP). The county and its partners in this effort held an event today at Gethsemane SDA Church in Raleigh to reiterate the benefits of the program and encourage the community to tell others about it, so young people do not go hungry.

“Nearly one in seven Wake County residents struggles with hunger,” said Regina Petteway, director of Wake County Human Services. “For many of these families, providing adequate, nutritious meals for their children is even more difficult during the summer months when school is not in session. We want to remind families that there is still plenty of time to participate in our summer food program.”

Wake County partnered with local nonprofit organizations to launch the 2016 SFSP in June. It offers free meals to children and teens ages 18 and younger. There is no application necessary, and children do not have to show proof of income to receive a meal at any participating location in Wake County. Service will continue through Aug. 12.

Studies show hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition over the summer may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins, and make children more prone to illness and other health issues. The SFSP is designed to fill the nutrition gap and make sure children get the healthy meals they need.

Meal sites change throughout the summer. Families are encouraged to check these resources frequently to find the site most convenient to them:

- Visit wakegov.com and click on the “Summer Food” banner;
- Call 1-866-3HUNGRY; or
- Text “FOODNC” to 877-877.

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