



FOOD BANK OF
NORTH ALABAMA

Impact

Together we can solve hunger™

VOLUME 2 | SUMMER | 2018

Your support makes sure children have the food they need this summer

From churches and schools, to splash pads and libraries, organizations across the region are joining in with the Food Bank of North Alabama to make sure children have the fuel they need to learn and play this summer.

The Food Bank has partnered with the Alabama Food Bank Association to help close the nutritional gap left after school lets out by providing free meals this summer.

The National Center for Education Statistics shows that during the 2015-16 school year, more than half of North Alabama children attending public schools relied on free or reduced price lunches while school was in session. This means that **when school lets out, more than 75,000 children in our service area lose access to a reliable source of nutrition.**

Many of those children who eat breakfast and lunch at school during the school year struggle in the summertime.

Our summer meal sites offer free meals throughout the summer to anyone 18 and under as part of the federal Summer Food Service Program. Since the Food Bank

>> *continued on page 2*

The sites we sponsor are expected to serve more than 30,000 meals this summer!



Because of donors like **you** ... *amazing things are happening!*



Since the Food Bank began sponsoring sites in 2014, the program has grown from just 3 sites in the Shoals area to 40 sites across 8 counties this year.



One benefit of taking their kids to eat at the summer meal site is that their children see other kids trying new, healthier foods, and thus are more likely to taste the foods themselves.



Making sure children have the food they need this summer

>> *continued from page 1*

began sponsoring sites in 2014, the program has grown from just 3 sites in the Shoals area to 40 sites across 8 counties this year. Combined, the sites we sponsor are expected to serve more than 30,000 meals this summer!

When we spoke with children and parents last year, the activities and social opportunities were almost as important as the meals. Many groups, such as the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) camp at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in New Market view summer meals as a natural pairing with educational programming. Educational camps “bridge the gap” to prevent academic loss over the summer time while at

The sites we sponsor
are expected to serve more than
30,000 meals this summer!

the same time, making sure that at-risk kids have enough to eat. Other groups, such as Crossroads Community Outreach in Florence view the meal times as a way to ensure that children have a caring adult present in their lives throughout the summer. Sites such as Crossroads have trained social workers on hand to visit with the children while they eat so they can encourage them and check in on how they are doing at home.

One site in Scottsboro serves very small children. The site coordinators mentioned that many of the kids are picky eaters and the parents have a difficult time getting the children to try different foods. The parents said one benefit of taking their kids to eat at the summer meal site is that their children see other kids trying new, healthier foods, and thus are more likely to taste the foods themselves. While we often hear about negative peer pressure, there can also be positive peer pressure when it comes to summer meals, encouraging kids to try new items like pears or fresh plums, items they wouldn’t typically be able to eat at home.

The Food Bank is committed to keeping children fed and helping them make great memories. Our summer meals sites provide kids an opportunity to come for free food, fun, and friends.

Our summer meals sites provide kids
an opportunity to come for free food,
fun, and friends.