

2008 WRO Sunshine Awards

The following organizations received the *Sunshine Awards* in the these categories:

Innovative Solutions to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption – 1 winner

Lebanon Community School District in Lebanon, Oregon collaborated with local area educators and advocates to renovate existing greenhouses to create the theme *Planting Seeds of Change* school garden. The renovation of the greenhouses integrated gardening and healthy eating to teach children how growing and eating fruits and vegetables can promote a healthy lifestyle. The district served the produce grown by the children in the lunchroom and donated any extra produce to local food banks or other agencies serving low-income people.

Successful Community Partnerships – 3 winners

Forest Grove School District in Forest Grove, Oregon partnered with local churches, businesses, community organizations, and parents to provide supervision and recreational activities for children at sites. The partnerships resulted in the school district opening an additional site and serving 150% more children in comparison to 2007 numbers.

The Play N Learn Community Head Start and Joel's Place of Fairbanks, Alaska. This is a shared award for the combined efforts of Play N Learn Community Head Start and Joel's Place to work collaboratively to implement a fun summer program that offered qualify nutritious meals. Joel's Place secured the assistance of 30 AmeriCorps youth members to organize the sites meal service and lead the fund and enrichment activities so children could have a more enjoyable and active summer. Play N Learn Community Head Start built on their existing relationship within the community and conducted extensive outreach and advertising to increase awareness and draw children and families to the sites.

Improving the Nutrition Quality and Appeal of Meals – 1 winner

The Culinary Training Academy in North Las Vegas, Nevada reviewed the nutritional content of its menus to reduce the sodium and fat content and increase the nutritional quality of the meals. In addition, the sponsor sliced and served fruit and vegetables in fun shapes, and tested new containers to distribute hot meals to children that would increase visibility, appearance and variety of meals as alternatives to a bag lunch.

Creating Healthy Meal Environment at Sites – 1 winner

The Hopi Jr/Sr High School in Keams Canyon, Arizona transformed its school cafeteria, which formerly had an institutionalized feel to it, into a place where students can eat and socialize in pleasant and safe surroundings. The school allowed students to paint murals on the cafeteria walls, installed a sound system to play soft music, and improved the nutritional content and appeal of its meals by creating salad/sandwich bars.

Service in Distinctive or Challenging Communities, including Rural Locations – 1 winner

The Food Bank of Alaska in Anchorage, Alaska creatively used existing local resources to 1) ensure sites in rural communities complied with SFSP requirements and 2) designed meals that meet SFSP meal requirements despite the limited storage and kitchen facilities available in rural Alaskan communities. The Food Bank purchased, stored, and shipped food in bulk quantities;

utilized prepackaged shelf-stable food and milk; and collaborated with local residents at the respective sites to monitor site compliance with SFSP requirements. This creative effort led to sites opening in 25 new rural Alaska native communities that were previously unserved by the Summer Food Service Program.

Integrating Nutrition Education and Physical Activities at Sites – 1 winner

The San Diego Unified School District in San Diego, California brought together a broad group of partners to hold 17 healthy fun BBQ events throughout San Diego County, showcasing how healthy eating, nutrition education and physical activities can go together. The events provided healthy meals for children and meals for sale for adults so entire families could eat, learn, and exercise together. The Nutrition Network and Power Play! planned nutrition decathlon events for each of the 17 events. Intensive marketing to the community to get children to sites led to a daily increase in meals served of 61% in comparison to 2007.