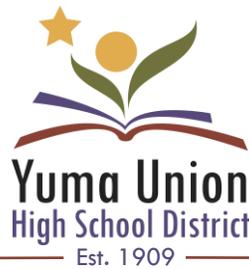


The USDA Summer Food Service Program enables school districts nationwide to provide nutritious meals, to children 18 and younger, free of charge. Unfortunately, this year, Arizona ranks as the 5th highest state for kids that go hungry in the nation. The USDA designated Arizona a target state and the state requested that school districts add one more site, one more week or one more meal to the Summer Food Service Program to help combat hunger.

This is our One More Challenge Story:

Last year we had a total of 14 sites in Yuma and San Luis. It was my goal this year to find ways to feed more kids this summer. I contacted numerous community leaders in specific areas of Yuma, asking for their assistance this summer. I offered to provide the food and staff if they would be willing to provide a location for us to serve kids meals. I had a great response from the public and was able to add eight new sites to the Yuma area. The new sites are The Yuma Community Food Bank, The Connecting Point Nazarene Church, The Scouts Service Center, The MLK Youth Center, Sierra Pacific Mobile Home Park, H.H. Donkersly American Legion Post 19, Educational Opportunity Center and The YMCA. Some sites such as The Connecting Point Church and The Scouts Service Center provided crafts and activities to keep kids engaged and looking forward to coming back. Mike Ivers, CEO of the Yuma Community Food Bank coordinated a Spike Event on June 18th which included folks from ADE, USDA and Dairy Council of Arizona and Arizona Cardinals Mascot, Big Red. This event created a lot of excitement and press for the Summer Program.

In addition to 8 new sites in Yuma, Jessica Mickish, Federal Programs Coordinator, contacted me and asked if we could partner together to not only feed kids but also promote literacy. This partnership proved to be a great outreach to kids in the community. The Migrant Department offered to use their two buses and pay for the fuel and bus drivers and migrant staff to provide books to kids on the bus while we fed them. Jessica decided on three stops in San Luis and three



stops in Somerton. I planned the stops and times and provided the staff and food. We served 5,776 meals on two buses over eight weeks. We went where a lot of kids live that may not have had transportation to summer meals. We are planning a larger outreach using buses to include Yuma areas this summer.

Providing nutritious meals to kids is always our goal, however so is promoting health and wellness. The Dairy Council of Arizona is committed to assisting schools increase participation in their summer feeding programs by providing a Summer Food Service Grant Program to school sites. I applied for six grants, one for each school, and was awarded the maximum grant of \$2,000 for each campus. The funds were used to purchase activity items to be used at the sites, as well as some promotional items such as bikes, helmets, sport balls and books to promote healthy activities, education and the importance of dairy products to a healthy body. I also applied for and was awarded a Walmart Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1,000, also geared to assisting the summer program.

I believe we answered the request of the state to add **one more site**, as we served at 28 sites in the Yuma, San Luis and Somerton areas which is fourteen more sites than past years. We fulfilled the request of **one more week** as we extended our service to provide meals at the schools even after summer school is over in June, as we served from June 2 through July 23. Finally, we satisfied the request of **one more meal** as we increased meals served from 2013 (30,333) and 2014 (31,677) to 2015 (59,692).

I want to say thank you to everyone that helped us feed the kids in our community this summer. Let's do it again next summer, only bigger!

Jamie Walden