

Hilliard
FREE LUNCH
Summer Camp for Kids

The Hilliard Free Lunch Summer Camp for Kids provides a free nutritious breakfast and lunch and pro social day camp experience for low-income children ages 1-18 while school is not in session.

Community Impact Report 2015

9th summer

62,556 lunches lovingly served since 2007

- **7 camp locations** - 5 in Hilliard as well as sponsored, coached and mentored partner locations in the Hilltop and Powell.
- **10, 595 meals** served to children including 9,574 total lunches + 1,021 breakfasts

Impact in Hilliard (5 camp locations)

Who did we serve?

- **669 children** registered (a **72% increase** from 389 in 2014).
- 72.3% of the children qualified for free/reduced lunch during the school year (a national indicator of poverty)
- 35.5 percent report the USA as their country of origin (single largest group)
- Children also represented 21 international countries of origin (*God is bringing the nations to us!*)
- 290 community volunteers - 172 adults, 51 Teen Interns and 67 youth built relationships with and shared their time and talents with children
- Recruited, trained and mentored **51 Teen Interns** from diverse socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds – fostering a life time commitment to serving their neighbor

Food/Nutrition

- **Provided 37 days** of **NUTRITIOUS FOOD** for children ages 1-18.
- **Served a total of 7,983 lunches:** **7,416** funded by the national Summer Food Service Program and an additional 567 lunches through donations from local churches and community members.
- Served **1,021** donated healthful grab and go **breakfasts** to children who arrived hungry.
- **600 lbs of vegetables** went home with children from local community garden

Physical Activity/Pro-Social Development

- Safe outdoor recreational opportunities for children
- Pro-social development through free play and organized group games/activities
- Opportunity to build friendships across diverse socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds with caring adults and teens who offer friendship, guidance and support
- Actively support 16 of 40 developmental assets identified as “building blocks of healthy development that help young children grow up healthy, caring and responsible” (www.searchinstitute.org).

- Parents/guardians of campers were welcomed and provided community and conversation opportunities affirming these adults as important members of our community

Educational Support: addressing Summer Learning Loss

- **Reading Buddies:** older children, teens and adults buddy read with younger children
- **Publishing Shop:** Children write, illustrate and “publish” their own books to take home
- **Special Guest volunteers (14)** provided unique enrichment programs on (i.e.therapy dog with owner, Norwich Township Fire Department, Darby Creek Metro Park Naturalist)
- 74 children benefitted from an **educational field trip** to Fun & Learn Day/Franklin County Fair
- Youth Department of Columbus Public Library, Hilliard Branch brought **Summer Reading Club** to our sites, including read alouds and prizes
- **Taco Bell Jr:** Older children (grade 4 and up) operated their own entrepreneurial Mexican restaurant at one of our sites. They planned menus, prepared food and on Fridays they served community members...their guests!! Children learned teamwork and many life skills as they took on the roles such as cook, host, waiter, or manager.

Feeding Children Near Where They Live and Go to School

5 Partner Sites in Hilliard

- Resurrection Lutheran Evangelical Church (4th summer)
- Hilliard Church of Christ (7th summer)
- Horizon Elementary School (2nd summer)
- JW Reason Elementary School (3rd summer – 1st summer partnering with HCSD ELL Summer School on site at JW)
- Bayside Commons Apartment Complex (2nd summer)

Transportation (a significant challenge of suburban poverty)

- Provided **transportation for 159 children** to camp and back each day so they could access this important summer resource for families
- SON Ministries successfully applied for and received a grant from McDonald’s Owner/Operators of Central Ohio to make increased transportation possible.

Feeding Hungry Children Beyond Hilliard (2 camp locations)

SON Ministries sponsored, coached and mentored 2 additional lunch site partners in areas where a free summer lunch program would otherwise not exist:

- Glen Oak Elementary School (Olentangy School District (2nd summer))
- Hilltop Lutheran Church (7th summer)

Two sites beyond Hilliard welcomed **more than 200 children & served 1,471 lunches.**

The total lunches lovingly served across all 7 sites summer 2015 = 9,574.