



A Member of Feeding America

Children's Programs Fact Sheet

Texas leads the nation with the highest rate of hungry children. 1 in 5 Texas children live in food insecure households, meaning they do not have access to adequate, nutritious meals on a regular basis. Research shows that hungry children have poorer mental health and overall health, miss more days of school, suffer greater rates of behavioral disorders and are less prepared to learn when they are in school. Nearly half of the funding for our programs is dedicated to services for feeding children. Children receive nutritious food from the NTFB and our Member Agencies through the following programs:

Food 4 Kids supplies participating schools with nutritious, kid-friendly, self-serve food designed to fill a backpack and feed a child over the weekend during the school year. In 2009 the program was extended to select summer schools. Children identified by school personnel as being at risk of hunger receive approximately four pounds of food in their backpacks each Friday. On Monday, children return the empty backpacks, and they are refilled for the next Friday. In the 2008- 2009 school year, the NTFB provided 8,000 children with backpacks. In June and July 2009, approximately 500 children received backpacks at 33 summer school sites. This year, the NTFB will provide backpacks to 9,000 children. The cost of a backpack is a little over \$5.

Kids Cafe provide nutritious evening meals at after school programs to children who participate in their school's free or reduced priced breakfast and lunch programs but may not otherwise receive a third meal at home. Kids Cafe is the most expansive child-feeding program in the nation. *Last year, NTFB's 29 Kids Cafe sites provided over 272,000 meals to more than 1,500 children.

Summer Lunch Box Program was launched in the summer of 2009. Volunteers assembled boxed lunches including a sandwich or wrap, a fruit or dairy product and a drink. The meals were distributed to 12 sites for 11 weeks. Over 800 children benefitted from the program and nearly 34,000 lunches were provided.

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*Represents Fiscal Year 2009; July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009

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