



Fact Sheet: Feeding Kids

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. Children receive nutritious food from North Texas Food Bank Member Agencies through a variety of programs. Each year nearly half of the North Texas Food Bank's resources are committed to programs for feeding children.

- Approximately 45,000 children receive over 1,100,000 meals each month.
- Food pantries serve over 38,000 children each month at an average cost of 32 cents per meal.
- Shelters and supplemental programs serve over 150,000 meals and snacks to children each month at an average cost of 32 cents per meal.
- The Food 4 Kids backpack program serves over 5,200 children weekly during the school year at an average cost of \$1.27 per meal.
- Kids Cafes serve 1,000 children 2-3 meals per week during the school year at an average cost of \$1.14 per meal.
- Summer feeding programs serve daily meals to 1,700 children at an average cost of \$1.14 per meal.

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. 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. *Last year NTFB distributed Food 4 Kids backpacks to 4,400 children in 200 schools.

Kids Cafe provide nutritious evening meals to children who participate in their school's 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 school year the NTFB's 27 Kids Cafe sites provided 140,000 meals to more than 1,000 children each week.

Summer Feeding Program offers children in low-income areas nutritious meals during summer vacations when they do not have access to school breakfast or lunch programs. It is projected that 100,000 meals (includes breakfast, lunch and snacks will be served to about 1,500 kids at 21 sites during the summer of 2008.

**Numbers reflect August 2007-May 2008*

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A member of Feeding America