

# Summer Food Service Program at Rockwood Library

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- Kids were in the library all day long without lunch.
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## We saw the need, but what could we do?

MCL Youth Services Director, Katie O'Dell, recommended partnership with two agencies:

- \* Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
- \* Volunteers of America: Catering for a Cause

## What is Catering for a Cause?

- Volunteers of America developed "Catering for a Cause" that provides the meals for the library.
- Meals are prepared by women from a residential treatment center who are learning culinary skills.

## Engaging Members

- Give opportunity for teen & adult volunteers.
- Cost effective for the library.
- Extremely rewarding for everyone.

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### Poverty in Rockwood

Rockwood has a high level of poverty:  
- Large amount of low-income housing  
- Rockwood School District  
- 25% of all students are ELL  
- Aisha Elementary & Davis Elementary  
- 50% rate for free/reduced lunch

### Info at Rockwood Library

- Major food bank
- 240 Free Library cards / month
- many children & adults stay all day

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### Special note

The "Caterers" were mostly low-income, single women with at least one child.

### Library benefit

The library was able to provide a safe and secure environment for the children and adults who were in the library all day long.

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## Poverty in Rockwood

Rockwood has a high level of poverty.

- Large amount of low-income housing.
- Reynolds School district:  
23% of all students are ELL.
- Alder Elementary & Davis Elementary:  
94% rate for free/reduced lunch.

## Pace at Rockwood Library

- Heavy foot traffic
- 246 new library cards / month
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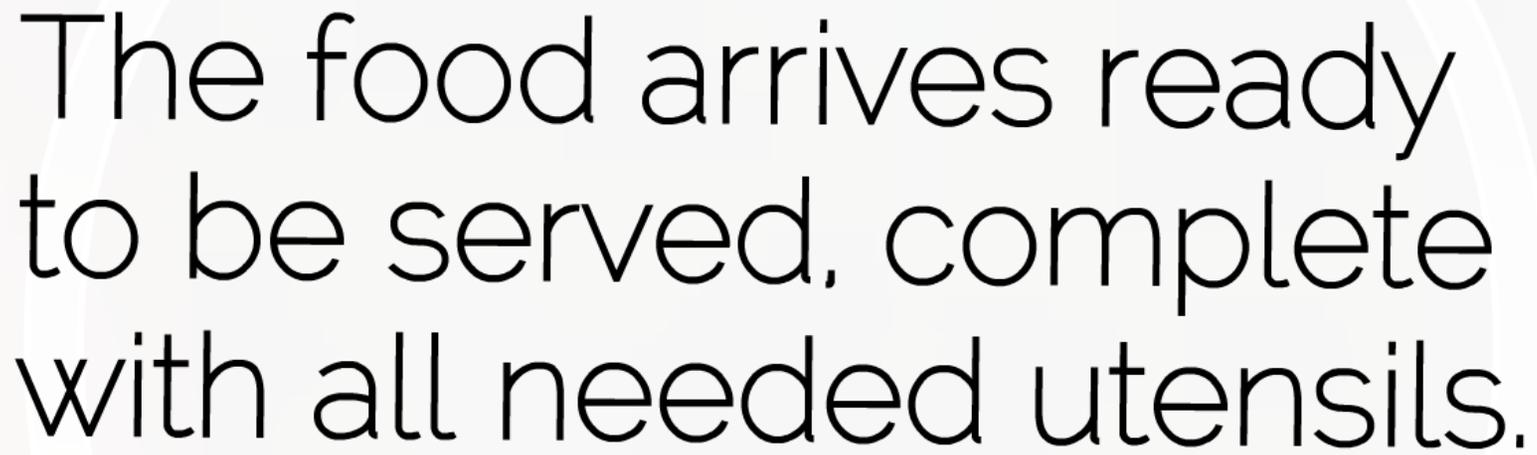
# What is Catering for a Cause?

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The food arrives ready to be served, complete with all needed utensils.

## Environmentally Responsible

1. All leftover food is composted
2. Forks, plates, & napkins are composted
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## The Impact...

- First day: we ran out of food after serving 40 meals.
- Increased amount to 60 meals per day.
- One mother walks over 1 mile with her 3 kids to receive the free lunch.
- A Russian grandmother came back after helping her granddaughter and insisted on shaking hands with everyone.

- Many families use other library services immediately before or after lunch.
- Summer Reading Program participation is higher, staff report.

### Final Stats

- 2,125 meals served!
- 45 days of service

### To sum it up...

1. The lunch program fulfills a real need.
2. Ensures that children in Rockwood have a positive learning environment.
3. This program is environmentally responsible & cost effective & engages our community.

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