

Summer Food Service Program at Rockwood Library

Hungry kids at the library...

- Kids were in the library all day long without lunch.
- Some kids regularly asked staff for food.

Need in Rockwood

Rockwood is a high-poverty area with a large number of families living in poverty. Many families are struggling to make ends meet and are unable to afford basic necessities like food and clothing.

Need at Rockwood Library

The library is a central hub for the community and is a place where many families are looking for help. The library staff is committed to providing support and resources to the community.

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

- Great 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
- Food & School district
- 25% of all students are ELL
- Above elementary & middle elementary
- Subsidized for these reduced lunch

Food at Rockwood Library

- Major food bank
- 2nd free library cards / month
- many children & adults stay all day

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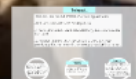
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- Large amount of low-income housing.
- Reynolds School district:
23% of all students are ELL.
- Alder Elementary & Davis Elementary:
94% rate for free/reduced lunch.

Pace at Rockwood Library

- Heavy foot traffic
- 246 new library cards / month
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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
3. No styrofoam is used



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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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