

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 05-084

Proclaiming June 5 through 11, 2005 Summer Food Service Program Week in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. For over two months every year, schools close their doors for summer vacation. As a result, thousands of children in our county who depend on school meals to meet a substantial amount of their daily nutritional needs do not have the opportunity to participate in the school free and reduced lunch program. This lack of access to basic nutrition is most pronounced among our poorest children, who frequently have no alternative to school meals.
- b. To remedy this national situation, Congress established the *Summer Food Service Program* to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious midday meals at school playgrounds, parks, camps and other sites where they traditionally gather during summer vacation. Moreover, Congress specifically targeted the administration of this program to sites located in low-income communities, as defined where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals.
- c. Far too few children and youth take advantage of this vital program. Despite being targeted in areas of high need in Multnomah County, the program serves only 22 percent of those who receive subsidized meals during the school year. Nationally, this figure is far lower at 15 percent. The US Department of Agriculture has declared June 5-11, 2005 as *Summer Food Service Program Week* and is actively working to increase the number of eligible schools, community and faith-based organizations, and other sponsors who offer the program in their communities.
- d. In our local community, Governor Kulongoski recognized Multnomah County's *Summer Food Service Program* efforts as a model collaboration in April 2005 in a celebration of Oregon Hunger Awareness Week at Parkrose High School. The Governor recognized the Commission on Children, Families and Community's successful partnership with the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force to conduct outreach to children, youth, and families to increase program participation. The Governor also provided well-deserved acknowledgement to *SFSP* program sponsors, which included Portland Public Schools, Parkrose School District, Gresham-Barlow School District, David Douglas School District, Centennial School District, Reynolds School District, Portland Parks & Recreation, Boys & Girls Clubs, and a number of non-profit organizations.

- e. We recognize the great strides we made in increasing Multnomah County *SFSP* program participation by 56 percent in 2004 to 173,683 meals served during the summer. We have now set our goal to increase the meals served in low-income communities by an additional 23 percent to feed at least half of all eligible children and youth in Multnomah County in Summer, 2005.

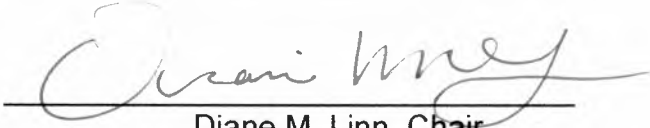
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. The week of June 5 through 11 as Summer Food Service Program Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.
2. The Board of County Commissioners calls upon all citizens to increase their participation in the effort to serve meals to low-income children and their families and help strengthen the community in which we live.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of June, 2005.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair