



# hunger & hope

2019 Summer Newsletter

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**FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL NEW YORK** is a not-for-profit organization working to eliminate hunger through nutritious food distribution, education, and advocacy in cooperation with the community. The Food Bank is the primary food supplier for 280 emergency food programs in our eleven county service region of central and northern New York.

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## Executive Director's Message

Summer is such a vital time for our network to ensure that wholesome meals are available to the thousands of children who are out of school for the summer. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) plays an important role in children's access to meals. We support several programs and there are more across our service area. Please see page 3 for more information about summer feeding programs.

We began a new initiative this year with our School Break Boxes, designed to meet the needs of children and their families during school breaks. Food Bank of Central New York piloted this initiative during the February winter and April spring academic breaks. Boxes are filled with nutritious, easy to prepare, and shelf stable foods. We distributed over 1,000 boxes during those two breaks. We are looking forward to expanding this initiative for summer and the fall.

We have been fortunate to be part of the CNY Care Collaborative and have been selected for four innovative initiatives. We are partnering with Syracuse Community Health Center, Liberty Resources, Upstate Health, and ARISE to assist with food referrals, nutrition education, and building solutions to end hunger. The initiatives begin in September 2019 and we are excited to partner with these well-known organizations!

We look forward to a wonderful summer where children and their families get to enjoy all that the season has to offer. Thank you for being one of those critical partners who help us feed children, families, and seniors throughout the entire year. We are grateful for the volunteers, staff, and communities that step up to help increase food access for individuals and families.

**You are the key to our success!**

Warmest Regards,

*Kathleen*

## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM



When school is out for the summer, many children have feelings of excitement and anticipation for carefree days. For other children and their families, summer means the loss of access to consistent breakfasts and lunches each weekday. For families who depend on these programs during the school year, the absence of these meals causes additional fear about how they will feed their children in the summer.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federal child nutrition program that helps fill the meal gap for school age children during the summer. As a sponsor of SFSP, we provide nutritious meals at youth programs that offer educational, recreational, and physical activities. During the summer of 2018, the Food Bank sponsored 16 sites in three counties; Onondaga, Cayuga, and Lewis. In partnership with these sites, we provided 25,309 balanced meals to an estimated 740 children to help close the summer hunger gap.

This summer, we're again delivering meals to the smiling faces of children who can enjoy some summer moments knowing they'll be able to enjoy healthy meals. We are currently the sponsor for 19 sites and will provide more than 25,000 meals to approximately 750 children.

### HEALTHY FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

Text "FOOD" to 877877 and a list of Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites near you will be sent to your phone.

CALL THE HOTLINE AT (866) 3-HUNGRY TO LEARN MORE.



## ADVOCATE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Households with children are far more likely to be food insecure than households without children. In our 11 county service area, an estimated 58,780 children are food insecure, meaning a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food insecurity is particularly devastating among children because of their increased vulnerability and the potential for long-term consequences.

Fortunately, there are multiple federal nutrition programs that target low income children at different ages and in different settings to reduce hunger and promote nutrition. These programs are authorized in a piece of federal legislation known as Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). Congress has an important opportunity in 2019 to improve the health of millions of our nation's children by passing a strong reauthorization that protects and strengthens the child nutrition programs.

WIC reaches children from birth to preschool, while school breakfast and lunch programs serve school-aged children. Food Bank of Central New York operates summer and afterschool programs to make sure children have nutritious food when school is out, and we could not do this without the support of these federal programs. In 2018, we distributed 105,247 meals through our Kids Cafe and Summer Food Service Programs.

We are working closely with our members of Congress to urge that they enact a child nutrition reauthorization bill that strengthens program access and supports participation by underserved children, and simplifies program administration and operation. Follow the Food Bank on social media for calls to action with steps that you can take to strengthen and protect the programs supporting our mission.



## THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Through a New York State initiative called DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Plan), Food Bank of Central New York was presented with the opportunity to initiate a partnership with Central New York Care Collaborative (CNYCC). The primary goal of CNYCC is to improve the health of the Medicaid population by coordinating services and building partnerships throughout the healthcare system in six counties across Central New York (Cayuga, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego).

The non-traditional partnership with CNYCC has provided many benefits for the Food Bank, including:

1. Funding in return for successful completion of agreed upon performance activities. The monetary benefit has helped to support gaps in funding for specific Food Bank staff positions and offset operational expenses;
2. An opportunity for the Food Bank to establish relationships with several of the healthcare organizations in our region;
3. Educating about the breadth of services the Food Bank offers and raising the awareness of healthcare organizations about the role that community-based organizations (CBOs) play in individuals' health.

As the Food Bank moves forward in the realm of hunger and health, the CNYCC partnership has unlocked the potential for us to have a more meaningful impact on the health of the individuals served by the emergency food network.

## SAVORSYRACUSE AND GOLF OPEN

Our annual SavorSyracuse event was held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Downtown Syracuse. More than 350 guests enjoyed delicious food and drink from local restaurants, caterers, breweries, and wineries. We thank all those that attended and our sponsors Delta Air Lines, Wegmans, Dunkin', Tops Friendly Markets, The Image Press, and The Digital Hyve. **Save the date for our next SavorSyracuse on Thursday, April 23, 2020.**



On Tuesday, July 9, 2019, we hosted our sold out Golf Open at Camillus Hills Golf Club. We thank the 148 golfers who enjoyed a day on the course while helping to raise funds for our mission. Our presenting sponsors for the Golf Open were Dunkin' and Delta Air Lines. **Save the date for our next Golf Open on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.**



## WAYS TO GIVE



Donate Online



Mail a Check



Give us a Call



Transfer Stock



Make a Legacy Gift

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 9:** Vernon Downs Concert

**September 28:** Syracuse Food Truck & Craft Festival

**September 1 - 30:** Hunger Action Month

**October 4:** Farm Bureau Takeover Night at Owera Winery

**Pre-order first edition *City of Syracuse MONOPOLY*, in partnership with the Cooley Group, at [syracusemonopoly.com](http://syracusemonopoly.com).**

Please visit our website at [foodbankcny.org](http://foodbankcny.org) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information about our events and volunteer needs.

