



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Food That's In When School is Out**

For 30 years, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has been the sponsoring agency to provide summer meals to Lincoln's low income children. The 2010 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) began on June 7<sup>th</sup> with an expected 32 sites throughout the summer in Lincoln's highest need areas. Health Director, Bruce Dart, and representatives from the Mayor's Office, USDA, the Nutrition Division of the Nebraska Department of Education, and other local agencies will officially launch Lincoln's program at the Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln, Park Teen Center, 855 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.

"Providing thousands of breakfasts and lunches for ten weeks in the summer to children from 2 to 18 years requires a great deal of collaboration among many agencies," says Dr. Dart. The USDA funds the program through the Nebraska Department of Education. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) coordinates the program in Lincoln and is sponsoring the second largest number of sites of any Nebraska sponsor. The Nutrition Services Department of Lincoln Public Schools prepares the meals for delivery to the sites by Health Department staff. The LLCHD provides training to agencies for the food distribution and offers health education on a variety of topics to the children. SFSP community partners include the United Way of Lincoln-Lancaster County, the Food Bank of Lincoln, and Anderson Ford.

This year's slogan for the SFSP is "Food that's in when school is out!" With summer meals, children that participate in the program are assured that they are getting the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow during vacation when they do not eat at school. In 2009, nearly 83,000 meals were served to Lincoln children through the SFSP. More than 100,000 meals are anticipated to be served this summer with a significant increase in breakfast service.

Everyday, more than 85 children are eating lunch at the Boys and Girls Club, Park Middle School site. Food service sites are typically located in schools or at service agencies that provide summer programs for children. These partners donate the use of their facilities, as well as staff and volunteer hours, to help ensure the program's continued success in providing meals to needy children. Through a donation from the United Way of Lincoln-Lancaster County, additional sites have been established in areas not otherwise served by a children's program.

For more information about food service sites and hours of operation, contact the Health Department at 441-8045.