



NEWS RELEASE

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Middletown Summer Food Program Expands *Plans to Double Number of Free Meals Served*

MIDDLETOWN – Community Renewal Team, Inc. and End Hunger Connecticut! have announced a comprehensive campaign to increase the number of eligible children in Middletown who participate in the free Summer Food Service Program, often referred to as “Summer Lunch.” The agencies hope to double the number of meals served this summer by:

- ◆ Increasing the number of sites providing meals and activities,
- ◆ Increasing the number of weeks when meals are offered, and
- ◆ Increasing the publicity and outreach to children and their families.

According to a study done in 2005, more than 1,800 Middletown children live in households where family members go hungry, or have limited access to safe, nutritious food. This report, *Food Security and Hunger among Middletown Households with Children*, found that just over 16% of households with children fell into this category, known as “food insecure.”

Approximately a third of Middletown’s public school students – more than 1,400 children – qualify for free and reduced price lunches during the school year. Yet only 11% of them have participated in the summer program, which provides free meals at several schools, recreational programs and churches.

With support from the UPS Foundation, End Hunger Connecticut! targeted Middletown for a campaign to build excitement around the summer meal program. “This summer Middletown is poised to feed more kids, in more locations throughout the city. We are excited to get the word out about the healthy meals and activities offered through the Summer Food Service Program,” said Sally Mancini, End Hunger Connecticut! Assistant Director.

Special activities will be provided along with the meals at Macdonough School, Maplewood Terrace, and in the Traverse Square neighborhood. CRT, the longtime summer food sponsor in Middletown, will have site supervisors coordinating both the meals and the activities. Partnering with End Hunger Connecticut! and CRT in this campaign are Middlesex Coalition for Children, Mayor's Task Force on Hunger, Middletown Board of Education, Middletown Parks and Recreation Department, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and the Middletown Housing Authority.

The motto of the federal Summer Food Service Program is, "Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation." With that in mind, CRT and End Hunger Connecticut! will welcome all children to the following open lunch sites, from noon to 1 p.m. daily:

- ◆ Macdonough School, 66 Spring St., Middletown. 6/25-8/2/07
- ◆ Traverse Square, 44 Hamlin St., Middletown. 6/25-8/24/07
- ◆ Maplewood Terrace, 9 Maplewood Terrace, Middletown 6/25-8/24/07

ALSO

- ◆ Chatham Court, 9 Chatham Court, Portland 6/25-8/24/07

For more information or to find a summer food site in your town, please call (860) 347-4465 or 2-1-1.

The Summer Food Service Program is administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education and funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Community Renewal Team, Inc., is the sponsor for Middletown and Portland, CT.