



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NOT YOUR TYPICAL BOLOGNA SANDWICH:

Alameda County Social Services Agency Serving Free Summer Lunch to Kids & Teens, July 8 – August 19, 2014

The Alameda County Social Services Agency is adding something new to its menu of services for the summer: free lunch for kids and teens age 18 and under.

Drawing inspiration from the nationwide “No Kid Hungry” campaign, which seeks to end childhood hunger in America, the Social Services Agency is ramping up efforts to connect children with nutritious food. For 1 out of 3 children in Alameda County who face the threat of hunger, the stability and nutrition offered through school-sponsored food programs end when school lets out for summer vacation.

As a sponsor of the California Department of Education’s Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Social Services Agency will be offering free lunch to children age 18 and under on a first-come, first-served basis. The meals will be served at the Eden Area Multi-Service Center (24100 Amador St, Hayward, CA 94544) from Tuesday, July 8 through Tuesday, August 19 daily (except for Wednesday, August 6) from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

To tempt taste buds, the menu will change daily and include hot offerings like chicken teriyaki, spaghetti marinara, meatball subs, and cheesy quesadillas while meeting nutritional standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Lunches will be prepared by Revolution Foods, which was launched in 2006 in Oakland, CA and now serves more than 1 million healthy and kid-inspired meals weekly in schools across the nation.

In Alameda County, residents of low-income neighborhoods that are classified as “food deserts” have more access to liquor and fast foods than to fruits and vegetables. Studies by the County Health Department and food advocacy groups show that the lack of nutritious meals during those summer months can contribute to hunger, illness, and other health issues, such as obesity.

“We are delighted to open another front in our war on ‘food deserts’ in Alameda County,” said Lori A. Cox, Agency Director. “Food stability has become a key public health concern, and research shows that people make food choices based not only on personal preference but on access, availability, and affordability. This program will make a difference for many of our local families.”

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For more information contact Sylvia Soublet, Public Affairs Director at (510) 267-9434 or (510) 207-2074 ☎ or visit <http://alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/community/summerLunch.cfm>



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