



Media Advisory

Contact:

Maria Stokes, United Way
415-808-4264, mstokes@uwba.org

FREE Summer Meals for Bay Area Kids Available Now

Dial 2-1-1 for free meal information in more than 150 languages

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22, 2009 -- Communities throughout the Bay Area have started free summer meal programs for children, serving meals on weekdays throughout the summer at summer-school and community sites. All children 18 years old and younger are eligible, regardless of their families' income.

NOTE: Because of funding cuts, many school districts and community organizations that have previously served summer meals have curtailed or eliminated summer meal service this year. Families are encouraged to call 2-1-1 to obtain the most up-to-date information about meal locations, serving times and dates. 2-1-1 can also provide referrals to food pantries and other resources if there is no summer-meal program nearby.

Media are encouraged to help spread the word during these tough economic times! Many families whose children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during the school year are not aware that they can also get free, nutritious lunches during the summer. For instance, in recent years, only 30% of eligible children took advantage of free summer meals in San Francisco.

WHERE:

Meals are served at schools and community sites in many Bay Area school districts, including Antioch, Calistoga, Concord, Fairfield, Richmond, San Francisco, San Pablo and San Rafael, just to name a few. Most meal sites are located at or near schools that have 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

Residents who can't dial 2-1-1 should call 800-273-6222.

###