

# Food Bank Works to End Chronic Hunger

*Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Member Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva, IL featured by the National CACFP Sponsors Association*

AUSTIN, TX, USA, July 23, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Northern Illinois Food Bank has been serving the area since 1983 when they distributed 64,000 pounds of food in their first year. Today, they serve 13 counties and work with 900 food pantries and feeding sites. Last year alone they were able to serve 850,000 snacks and suppers to over 8,000 kids per day. Through the At-Risk Afterschool and Summer Food Service Programs, they also provided more than 330,000 breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to nearly 16,000 kids every day.



Children enjoy healthy snacks and meals through Northern Illinois Food Bank

The food bank provides the children with the food they need, and expanding nutrition education that will influence their families. Chef Jenn creates recipes that are child friendly with simple preparation. They also have created a Nutrition Education Program comprised of 20 lessons, four for each of the five food groups. The lessons are only fifteen minutes, have information and activities to take home, and the children are involved with the food preparation and hands-on nutritional activities.

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1 in 5 children in our service area are not getting the nutritious food they need. When kids don't have what they need, emotional and learning needs suffer.”

*Jennifer Nau, Director of Communications, Northern Illinois Food Bank*

The food bank seeks to find where they are most needed in the area. The last few years they have increased their partnerships with libraries and community centers. They are finding that some of the children are eating one meal at school as early as 10:30 in the morning and then after

school they are too hungry to focus. The food bank knows that by providing healthy food, they

are able to bring the focus back to school work and enrichment programs.

In order to end chronic hunger, they are constantly trying to find potential sites to serve the community. A key to their success is flexibility and creating programs that specifically fit the need of the area. They know that it only takes one person to make a difference in a person's life and that is what makes their work so important. "We want to make sure no one is hungry. This program can be the difference."

CACFP is an indicator of quality child care. When children are cared for by providers who are part of the CACFP they are receiving the best nutrition available. Learn more about other CACFP providers featured in the [Member Showcase](#) through the [National CACFP Sponsors Association](#).

Since 1986, the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) is the leading national organization for sponsors who administer the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). It provides education and support to thousands of members in the CACFP community and in particular to sponsors of all sizes from across the country. CACFP strives to improve communication between families, caregivers, sponsors and their supervising government agencies.

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