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Food Bank Reminds That “There’s No Vacation From Hunger”

[Gabrielle Moore](#) | May 28, 2010 | [Comments 0](#)

Summer vacation is a welcome and anticipated break for many K-12 students, but for low-income students that may rely on their school's free and reduced meal program, summer vacation means the loss of a meal. The [Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina](#) is kicking off their third Kids Summer



Stock program to bring awareness to children who need donations even more during a time when donations traditionally tend to decrease. Because of people vacationing, and the lack of contributions from school and college programs, food banks across the country see less donations. The Kids Summer Stock program is meant to remind people that hunger doesn't stop in the summer.

The Food Bank holds a series of events, festivals and concerts that double as food and fund drives. While people are there to have fun, they're also encouraged to donate. For every dollar donated, the food bank can provide \$8 worth of meals. In 2008, Kids Summer Stock provided 1.2 million meals to children and their families, and in 2009 they provided 1.75 million meals.

Public Relations Manager Christy Simmons had this to say about the need for giving during the summer:

“During Kids Summer Stock we have events to raise food and funds and bring awareness to helping children and their families during the summer. Seniors and children are the most vulnerable populations in any situation, you can imagine hunger. Across the country, during the summer donations tend to slow down. That’s in comparison to, say during the holidays, where we see 48% of food drive donations. Since we’ve had this history of a slow down during the summer, three years ago we decided to be proactive about it and came up with our own food drive to remind the community that hey, we still have hungry families out here and even more so we have these hungry children.

It's important because, if you just think about the number of children that are on the free and reduced meal programs alone, if they don't have access to even just one meal for five days and you multiply that by 12 weeks of summer vacation, that can be millions of missed meals. We're simply trying to do our part to make sure that the community remembers the children, that they're still in need during the summer even while most of us are vacationing. We do this by having these series of events to raise awareness, food and funds and also to have fun. **People don't have hunger on their minds as much during the summer.** We want to remind people that we're still here and more importantly the children and families at risk of hunger still need your support and donations.”

You can learn more about the Kids Summer Stock program at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina's [website](#), and find a local food bank you can donate to [here](#). The Food Bank also encourages people to organize a food drive of their own, and gives ideas and advice [here](#).



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About the Author: Gabrielle Moore is a Michigan State University journalism student. She's still trying to figure out what she wants to be when she grows up, but she harbors a passion for telling moving and meaningful stories, and appreciates the power of storytelling to influence the world. An animal lover since she can remember, she volunteers at her local animal shelter and is involved with Michigan's Children, pushing for legislative support and funding for children's programs across the state.



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