

**EMBARGOED UNTIL
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**NEW LOCAL SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM OPENS ON NORTHSIDE
Pennsylvania could receive \$3 million more from feds, report says**

Thanks to Just Harvest fifty fewer children will be hungry this summer because a new Summer Food site has opened on the Northside at Fowler Pool.

The Pittsburgh Project and CitiParks welcome you to their Pool Party and Summer Food site at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, July 13, 2006 at the Fowler Pool, 2438 Wilson Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15214.

The pool is run by The Pittsburgh Project which feeds children enrolled in their summer camp. Just Harvest helped The Pittsburgh Project and CitiParks develop a site at the pool that can serve all children in the neighborhood free summertime meals.

This site is one of about 270 in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh taking advantage of a long-time federal program. Summertime is one of the hungriest times for low-income children across Pennsylvania. School is out and there are no school meals. The Summer Food Service Program helps to alleviate their hunger.

“Fowler Pool makes for a wonderful Summer Food site. The pool serves as a draw for the kids. They come for swimming and fun and get a free nutritious lunch and snack to boot” says DeShauna Ponton, Child Nutrition Advocate for Just Harvest. “I was thrilled when CitiParks and The Pittsburgh Project agreed to open a site there. I used to eat Summer Food there when I was a kid and now other kids can too”.

According to a national report “Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation” released today by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) Pennsylvania which serves 126,460 kids in the summer and ranks 7th of all states, could take in over \$3 million more federal dollars by serving 63,000 more low-income children.

FRAC’s report ranks states by assessing their performance in reaching needy children with either Summer Food Service Program or National School Lunch Program summer meals, compared to regular school year meals. If Pennsylvania served 40 students in the summer for every 100 served during the regular school year or 63,142 more children the state would tap \$3,403,353 in additional federal funds.

The Summer Food Service Program is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides funds for eligible sponsoring organizations (schools, public agencies and non-profits) to serve nutritious meals in summer to children 18 or younger at approved sites that are in low-income areas, or that serve a group of children most of whom are low-income. The National School Lunch Program, also operated by USDA, provides per meal cash reimbursements to serve nutritious school meals to low-income children in school during the summer. The programs both go through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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Just Harvest – A Center for Action Against Hunger- is a countywide membership organization which promotes economic justice and works to influence public policy and to educate, empower, and mobilize the citizens of our community towards the elimination of hunger.

The Food Research and Action Center (www.frac.org) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition.