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Summer Meals Fest takes over Frontier Field

Kids, parents sample menus, learn about summer activities

ROCHESTER – As the school year wraps up, Rochester children get an early taste of what’s in store for the summer.

The “Spring into Summer: Summer Meals Fest” welcomed more than 600 attendees to Frontier Field on a warm, sunny Saturday in Rochester. The event is organized by the Summer Meals Partnership of Rochester, which aims to increase participation in the city’s Summer Meals program each year. Plenty of fun activities, such as a bounce house and a WDKX dance party, awaited the children, and menu tastings were available to all attendees.

“It is essential that we get the word out to families that if you are 18 or younger in Rochester, you can drop in to any open summer meals site to get free meals all summer long,” said Dina Faticone, Director of Community Health and Engagement at Common Ground Health and co-chair of the partnership. “The partnership has worked hard all year to promote this program to ensure everyone in the community who wants to participate knows how to find a summer meals site.”

The event also featured informational tables about other summer activities, such as Kids Thrive 585, the Girl Scouts of WNY, the YMCA, Rochester Public Library and ABC Head Start.

The City of Rochester, the Rochester City School District, Foodlink, the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Common Ground Health and other local partners all bring a unique perspective to the partnership with the common goal of ensuring that all kids have a safe, happy, and healthy summer.

The Summer Meals program begins for many sites on June 26. New this year, an expanded mobile meals initiative aims to reach children in areas that may not have access to a nearby

site. Foodlink and Rochester City School District vehicles will bring dozens of meals to at least five sites every day throughout the summer.

“What I value most about the collaboration among all of the partners is that together we have developed innovative ways to reach children, and this mobile program was the logical next step,” Faticone said.

For more information about the partnership or a list of 2017 Summer Meals sites, visit www.summermealsroc.org or dial 2-1-1.

About The Summer Meals Partnership of Rochester

The Summer Meals Partnership is a collaboration among the City of Rochester, the Rochester City School District, Foodlink, the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Common Ground Health and other community partners. The partnership leads year-round efforts to plan, promote, and continuously improve the Rochester Summer Meals experience. The primary purpose of the Summer Meals Partnership is to ensure that every child and youth in the City of Rochester has access to free and healthy summer meals.