

Food 4 Kids Celebrates a Successful Summer and Looks Toward the Fall

What an incredible summer it has been for Food 4 Kids and our communities! Over 11 weeks this summer, we provided almost 54,000 meals to families, twice a "normal" summer. We cannot offer enough thanks to our partners, our staff and our volunteers who made it all possible. Their dedication has always been key to our success, but this summer placed unusual demands on them all and they came through for the children of the lower and outer Cape!

Our partners this year included Nauset Schools, Monomoy Schools, Eastham Rec, Wellfleet Rec, Truro Rec, Provincetown Rec, South Shore Early Education, and Cape Kid Meals.

Our F4K staff included Operations Manager Anne Marie Mullin (4 yrs.), Program Manager Laura Froeschner (3 yrs.), Assistant Managers Mary O'Reilly and Gerard Costa (3 yrs. each), and Site Supervisors Amy Bull (5 yrs.), Cathy Walsman (3 yrs.), Sarah Doucette (1st year), and Harry Galloway-Kahn (1st year).

Our volunteers numbered 146, with 41 returning and 105 new this summer! For the first time, volunteers were needed to help hand out meals to families in our 8 towns and 106 filled that role. Another 27 drove meals to sites, and 23 helped prepare meals when the Nauset kitchen staff was short-handed. Many served in multiple roles. In total our volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours to make sure families received the meals they needed this summer.

A September 3rd *New York Times* article highlighted the nation-wide hunger epidemic with this headline: "A shadow of hunger looms over the United States The lockdown, with its epic lines at food banks, has revealed what was hidden in plain sight: that the struggle to make food last long enough, and to get food that's healthful — what experts call 'food insecurity' — is a persistent one for millions of Americans."

Perhaps you have read other articles citing similar concerns for our state and our own communities. F4K is pleased to be able to continue our partnership with Nauset Schools, at least through December. With F4K as their sponsor, as we were this past spring, Nauset Schools will be able to continue to serve meals free to all students at their 7 schools plus Cape Cod Tech, whether attending in person or remotely.

What we do will not solve the problem of hunger in our towns, but at least it provides some important relief, now more than ever.