

FUN SAFE PHILLY SUMMER



Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services in the United States Department of Agriculture, Kevin Concannon, addresses the crowd at Fun Safe Philly Summer's Summer Kick-Off event held at Martin Luther King Recreation Center on Friday June 24, 2016.

Newsletter | Mid-Summer 2016

Letter from Dr. Nina Ahmad, Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement

As the Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement with incoming Mayor Kenney's administration, I have come to deeply appreciate the work done by Fun Safe Philly Summer (FSPS). This initiative, housed in the Office of the Philadelphia Youth Commission (PYC), which is within the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, is designed to promote summer opportunities for Philadelphia's youth. Rachel Abbott, our most dedicated Fun Safe Philly Summer Coordinator and AmeriCorps VISTA, with great support and supervision from Ricardo Calderon, Director of PYC, has managed to keep FSPS on the right track through the Mayoral transition. Careful planning and coordination with our many partners has resulted in successfully connecting youth in Philadelphia to (1) free and low-cost summer programming, (2) free summer meals, (3) teen summer jobs and opportunities, and (4) summer reading; I am delighted to see how FSPS innovatively weaves these four focus areas together. To date, this initiative remains one of a kind, as no similar initiative exists in any other American cities. FSPS underscores that investing in the growth of Philadelphia's youth as resilient, capable leaders is paramount for furthering the Kenney administration's priorities of shared prosperity and inclusion.

Summer Kick-Off

Every year, Fun Safe Philly Summer organizes a Summer Kick-Off event to raise awareness of Philadelphia's free summer meals program, the free and low-cost summer programs available throughout the city, and to get our youth excited about the upcoming summer in our great city! Philadelphia is chock full of fun, engaging, and safe activities that help our children grow all summer long, and the Kick-Off serves to celebrate this.

This year's Kick-Off began with a press conference, where Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement, Nina Ahmad, Director of the Youth Commission, Ricardo Calderon, Commissioner for Parks and Recreation, Kathryn Ott Lovell, and Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services in the United States Department of Agriculture, Kevin Concannon, emphasized the importance of continuing to grow, both mentally and physically, during the summer. The Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, Temple University Community Relations, Indego, the Free Library, Connections for Humanity, and Philadelphia Museum of Art's Family Programs provided resources throughout the event. MVP360 and the Philadelphia Area Disc Alliance led basketball, flag football, and Frisbee games, and delicious and healthy snacks were generously donated by the Garces Foundation, which made fresh vegetable quesadillas onsite, Trader Joe's, and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation. Last but certainly not least, the Phillie Phanatic brought his excitement, joy, and humor to the event as well.

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Free summer meals!

FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS HERE!

Summer can be a difficult time for Philadelphia youth who rely on free and reduced school-year lunches. Thankfully, Fun Safe Philly Summer works alongside an amazing network of stakeholders who work together to provide free meals all summer long in Philadelphia. **All youth 18 and under, as well as individuals with disabilities 19 and older who are enrolled in a school program, are eligible to receive free USDA-funded summer meals** at more than 1,000 meal sites across Philadelphia. Even so, our city is not reaching every young person that needs a free summer meal. Fun Safe Philly Summer works with

its summer meal partners to ensure that anyone who needs a free summer meal knows the location of his or her nearest meal site. One of Fun Safe Philly Summer's strongest partners is the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, which has distributed door hangers and completed outreach in high-need areas of Philadelphia this summer. Your nearest meal site could be at your local recreation center, school, church, or even on your block, as many outdoor meal sites take place right in neighborhoods on designated one way streets called Playstreets.

Summer meal service will continue through Labor Day.

For more information and to find your nearest meal site location:

- Call the toll-free summer meals hotline at 1-855-252-6325
- Text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877
- www.phillysummermeals.org

Summer meals numbers...

Fun Safe Philly Summer was created in 2012 to help connect youth of all ages to free summer meals and free and low-cost summer programs. Mayor Jim Kenney and his Office of Public Engagement continue to support this initiative in the name of enhancing shared prosperity and inclusion across our great city, and in the name of encouraging positive growth of our young people.

In summer 2015, **4.4 million** meals were served at **1,453 sites** across the city. Sites are located at a variety of places, such as churches, schools, parks, recreation centers, camps, housing complexes, and community organizations. Parks and Recreation, the largest sponsor of Philadelphia summer meal sites, also provided outdoor meal sites called **Playstreets** right on neighborhood blocks where free summer meals are needed.

2015 Philadelphia Free Summer Meal Sites by Sponsor

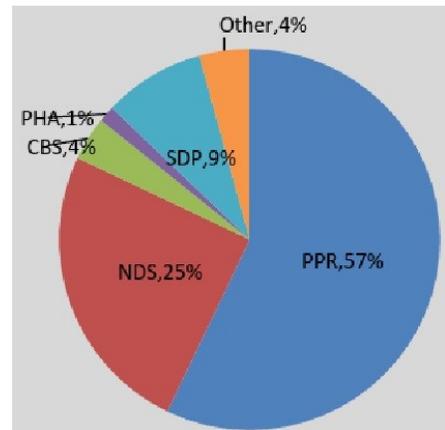
PPR= Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

NDS= Archdiocese Nutritional Development Services

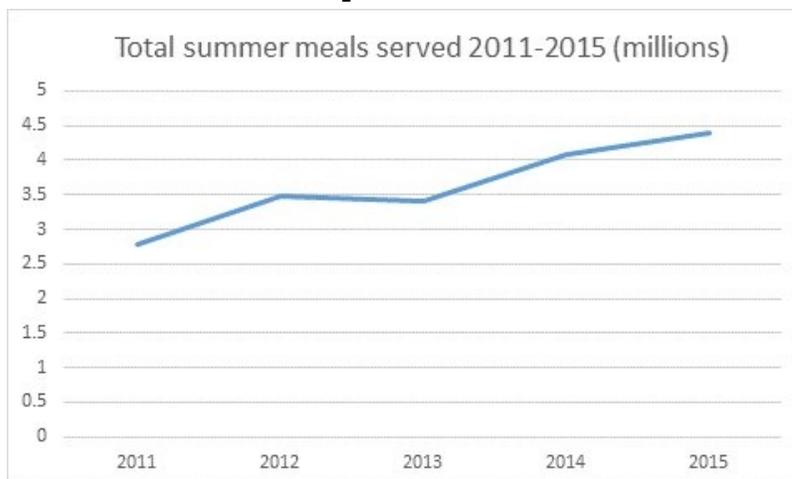
SDP= School District of Philadelphia

CBS= Congregation Beth Solomon

PHA= Philadelphia Housing Authority



Total Free Summer Meals Served in Philadelphia 2011-2015



Summer 2015's summer meals figure indicates a 7.4% increase in the number of meals served compared to summer 2014. Since 2011, as a city, we have increased participation in the summer meals program by over 55%.

Fun Safe Philly Summer's Playstreet Book Club 2016



Two volunteers at a Playstreet Book Club site in Northeast Philadelphia in late July.

Following a successful pilot, which took place during summer 2015, Fun Safe Philly Summer tackled its second July full of book giveaways at outdoor meal sites. Through the month of July, Philadelphia Youth Commission staff and volunteers traveled to two Playstreet sites each Tuesday and Thursday. There, both staff and volunteers administered reading assessments to establish children's reading levels, and gave away book bundles, each containing five, take-home books. During the month of July, Fun Safe Philly Summer gave away more than 1,700 books to more than 350 children at 13

different outdoor meal sites. Each child also received book labels to write his/her name on, a letter from Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement Nina Ahmad, a reading tips sheet for family members, a map to the nearest Free Library branch, and a Fun Safe Philly Summer 101 Free Things To Do in the Summer guide. We will continue to give out books at our upcoming Pop-Up events in August. Thank you to First Book Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Foundation, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, and all of our volunteers for ensuring an

During summer 2015, more than 3,000 books were distributed to more than 600 children. Thus far, during summer 2016, Fun Safe Philly Summer has distributed more than 1,700 books to more than 350 young people..

Fun Safe Philly Summer's Pop-Up Community Events 2016

extraordinary second year of the Playstreet Book Club.

Free Pop-Up Community Events

Fun Safe Philly Summer has hosted two Pop-Up community events thus far this summer. These were held on July 28th at Athletic Recreation Center in North Philadelphia and on August 3rd at Scanlon Ice Rink in Northeast Philadelphia. All of these Pop-Up events are free, open to the public, and meant to provide fun, engaging activities for youth and their families on week nights during the summer. Additionally, Fun Safe Philly Summer provides snacks, music, and useful resources at each of its Pop-Up events.

We would like to thank the Philadelphia Area Disc Alliance, Connections for Humanity, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, the Philadelphia Foundation, and the youth groups at Athletic Recreation Center for helping us make our first Pop-Up event of summer 2016 a great success. A special thank you to Maggi Kirk, Development and

Donor Services Officer, and to Philip Fitzgerald, Manager of Grantmaking Services at the Philadelphia Foundation for their immense support of the Playstreet Book Club and for joining us for an afternoon of fun and celebration at our Athletic Recreation Center event.



Father teaching his daughter to ice skate during August 3rd Pop-Up event.



Flaunting their new swag, three young men enjoy Scanlon Ice Rink on August 3rd.



Athletic Recreation Center's fashion and confidence youth group at the end of their fashion show on July 28th— they rocked it!

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Pop-Ups!

Join the **Mayor's Office of Public Engagement** at our two remaining Pop-Up events of the summer.
All Pop-Ups include snacks, music, resources for parents and families, and t-shirt giveaways for our youth!



Pool & Frisbee Party Grab your shades and come cool off!
August 17, 5-8pm, Mander Recreation Center
(2140 N. 33rd St. 19121)

Skating Party Come get your roll on, whether it's your first time or you're an expert!
August 25, 5-8pm, McCreesh Recreation Center
(6744 Regent St. 19142)



Get more information on summer programs for youth at www.funsafephillysummer.com or on Twitter [@PhillySummer](https://twitter.com/PhillySummer).

Read & Ring the Mayor!



READ AND RING

HEY KIDS,

Mayor Kenney wants to know what you're reading this summer. Leave him your message at **267-689-READ (7323)**.

GROWN-UPS, CHECK OUT FOUR IDEAS TO READ AND RING WITH YOUR KIDS.

For more great ideas to help children read at grade level by fourth grade, visit Readby4th.org.



Your child's love of reading begins with *you*.

Gigi McGraw, Manager of Community Engagement | mcgrawg@freelibrary.org | 215-814-4112
Read by 4th, a citywide coalition of partners managed by the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Wishing everyone a

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