

Meals not a problem even when school's out

The many students who — even with the help of free or reduced lunch at school — often don't get three meals a day during the school year are at special risk when school is out. Nationally sponsored feeding programs, such as Summer Servings, help fill in gaps to provide nutritious meals for hungry Hoosiers. Summer Servings in Marion County's provides nutritious meals to children free of charge.

In 2011, 86 percent of the students enrolled in Indianapolis Public Schools received free or reduced-cost lunches. The Summer Servings program, which kicked off June 15, is designed to ensure that children get the meals they need when school is not in session. Kids 18 and younger can gather at one of the hundreds of various locations around Marion County during the weekdays and receive up to two meals or one meal and one snack per day per child at schools, churches, recreation centers, camps, playgrounds, parks and other community sites.

The impact of childhood hunger goes beyond the classroom and has repercussions into adulthood. It's time to take a stance against hunger in our community; visit www.summerservings.org to find a location near you.

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