

Nutritional Development Services

From the desk of Lizanne F. Hagedorn, Director...

“Do small things with great love”

St. Teresa of Calcutta

The quote above was chosen as the theme for this summer’s program. NDS staff and interns from the University of Pennsylvania Fox Leadership Program traveled to many feeding sites to talk to the children about kindness and ways in which they could put it into action. The children participated in art and writing contests and engaged one another on the topic yet they did not have to look far to see what this looks like in their own communities as you will read below.

On the first day of our summer food program for children, the Philadelphia Daily News featured a story about Nilsa Adorno of the Kensington section of Philadelphia. Nilsa, a 30-year-old mother of five, is known as the neighborhood hero because she makes sure the area children get fresh, healthy meals in the summer. This is the second year in which Nilsa applied to be an outdoor feeding site with NDS so she could serve breakfast and lunch to the local children. In order to qualify as a feeding site, she attended the required training, applied for and passed her clearances to work with children and was approved by the PA Department of Education. Nilsa did this on her own without any fanfare or the expectation of remuneration. She told us that the children were banging on her door the next day after school let out in the hopes of receiving meals. With assistance from St. Joseph’s Prep Hurtado Cup competition, NDS was able to supply her with a tent for the children to eat under in bad weather and coolers to keep the food safe in addition to a daily delivery of meals. Nilsa told the reporter that “...families have major problems feeding these kids in the summer. That is why I am here.” Over the course of the summer, Nilsa served 1,200 meals to the children that came to her for food.

This summer Nutritional Development Services sponsored over 400 sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania to ensure children had access to meals when school was out. Along with other sponsors of the program, it is estimated that only 15% of the children in the state who are eligible for free meals at school participate during the summer months.

It is with admiration and gratitude that we recognize all in our communities who do small things with great love. Please take some time to read about the ongoing work of feeding children in centers, shelters and residential child care programs and new initiatives in the Community Food Program that have been taking place this spring and summer.

Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine! Ephesians 3:20



Community Food Program



This summer, the Community Food Program had a unique opportunity to share additional fresh items to children and families throughout Philadelphia. In partnership with the SHARE Food Program, a variety of summer sites received bags of fresh produce including avocados, tomatoes, bananas, blueberries and apples! Along with the bag of produce, adults and children were offered a chance to learn tips around healthy eating and nutrition. We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our scope to provide more fresh items to families!

Once again, NDS offered seed money to organizations interested in starting a garden for their community. We were pleased to share funding with Aquinas Center, Bethel AME Church of Ardmore, St. Gabriel's Hall, and St. John Neumann Place II. Gardens offer a unique sense of community across cultures, languages, and backgrounds. It is our pleasure to cultivate a foundation of fellowship while promoting healthy living and nourishment!



Catholic Relief Services

This year marks Catholic Relief Services 75th year of putting faith into action to help individuals in need, both locally and globally. NDS receives 25% of the CRS Rice Bowl donations, which is used to purchase foods for our cupboards. Thank you for your faithful support for the last 75 years!



Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive is now until October 26th.



Summer Meals Program

The summer months at NDS are dynamic, demanding and rewarding. The 2018 season proved to be another successful term of feeding children throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue offering nourishing meals to children when school is out of session and to expand our reach beyond school walls.

This year, Catholic Social Services Northeast Family Service Center graciously hosted our 12th Annual Blessing of the Summer. Monsignor Daniel Sullivan (pictured top left) shared a message of love and kindness and reminded children of their role in creating a peaceful and welcoming community.

For the third year in a row, Saint Joe's Prep donated supplies for our outdoor feeding sites, including playground balls, board games, paint sets, arts and crafts and books. These items are invaluable for children at our sites without structured/organized activities for the children. Providing a fun, active environment for the children when they receive their meal(s) is a fabulous way to recruit more children to participate, while keeping them healthy in the summertime! Thank you, Saint Joe's Prep, for your continued support!



NDS Executive Director, Liz Hagedorn shares information with KYW News Radio about the impact of summer meals on childhood hunger



A new group of Fox Fellows from the University of Pennsylvania (pictured left) each summer brings new perspectives and invaluable input to our NDS team. For the second year, we were blessed to have a seminarian in the office. Terrance Fulton (pictured right in yellow shirt) brought a fun, light perspective to the team, seamlessly joined the NDS family, and shared his knowledge and stories

of kindness and faith with children throughout Philadelphia.

NDS visited sites throughout the summer, promoting kindness, healthy eating and physical activity. Each year we enjoy visiting the variety of sites we serve, interacting with the many children, and discussing our meals. New participating sites each summer, like the Philadelphia Peace Park, bring new opportunities to share our meals with a variety of organizations!



Schools

By the end of the Summer Meals Program, staff are in full swing gearing up for the start of school in September. With new schools joining our team, new staff being trained, and nourishing meals ready to be delivered, we are thrilled for another season of school! We are thrilled to welcome Deep Roots Charter School, Frederick Douglass Christian School, Bishop McDevitt High School and Youthbuild Charter School to our sponsorship! We look forward to a fruitful partnership!

Nutritional Development Services

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Child and Adult Care Food Program

Spotlight on Mercy Neighborhood Ministries...

Nutritional Development Services (NDS) has enjoyed the privilege of working with many incredible partners over the years. It is especially wonderful that we have enjoyed relationships with some agencies that are now decades long. One such organization is Mercy Neighborhood Ministries (Mercy). For over 40 years, through the leadership of the Sisters of Mercy, the agency has provided invaluable services to the residents of the Tioga-Nicetown community in Philadelphia. Their principal focus has been the offering of quality programming in Early Education and Youth Development, Health and Wellness for the Aging, and Adult Education. It has been in the organization's child and youth services that NDS has had the opportunity to work alongside Mercy. For more than 20 years, our office has furnished breakfast, lunch and snack to the children attending the agency's childcare center. We are providing these meals to approximately 70 children, 85% of whom qualify for free and reduced-price meals. We also deliver free suppers to an additional 60 children who attend the site's afterschool program. Sister Margery Lowry was an early partner from Mercy. She recently shared, "NDS staffs' on-going commitment to serve healthy and appealing meals to all children best describes my experience with their ministry. Back when we were just getting started and we didn't really know that much, NDS took the time to visit us on site and literally walked us through being able to provide our children with nutritious food. They were wonderful teachers and mentors and our dedicated staff caught on. Meal offerings, careful training of staff and insistence that all meals are held, served and stored according to their policies are all part of their unwavering commitment to children. Some 20 years later, we continue to strive to pass on their dedicated service to the children who are with us today and we value the partnership it takes to keep our children thriving." NDS has been blessed to work with Mercy given their mission and vision and their meticulous work on the meal program. Having already enjoyed this long and successful collaboration, we were excited to learn that Mercy was also beginning childcare and afterschool program operations in Germantown this fall. We will be providing meals at that location as well and very much look forward to the furthering of our partnership.

