

Hungry for Happiness Mobile Tour visits Holy Rosary church

Written by

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The Arby's Foundation's Hungry for Happiness Mobile Tour visited Loaves and Fishes Summer Food Service dining Site at Holy Rosary Catholic Church (2424 18th Avenue South) in Minneapolis last Tuesday, June 12th. Over 200 kids came for free meals (a turkey sandwich, apple slices, yogurt, and milk), and they stayed to play the many games that were set up: hopscotch, tug of war, hoola hoops, jump rope, bean bag toss, Wii, etc. The Arby's Foundation gave out free sunglasses, frisbees, and water bottles, and a fun time was had by all. They also surprised Loaves and Fishes with a check for \$5,000 to support the Summer Food Service Program!

According to Feeding America's March 2011 Map the Meal Gap Study, 1 in 10 Minnesotans do not know where their next meal is coming from, and 40% of those affected are children. The Children's Defense Fund's recent report, "Minnesota Kids Count 2011: Economic Security and Child Well-Being," found that the number of Minnesota children living in poverty increased by 53% from 2000 to 2009.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federal program designed to ensure that kids who receive free or reduced lunch through the school year also receive meals during the summer. The purpose of the program is to provide nutritious, well-balanced lunches, dinners, and snacks to children ages 18 and under. All meals follow USDA guidelines. A nutritious diet is critical for healthy child development. A hungry child may have trouble concentrating in school and may have behavior problems. A child with a diet high in fat and sugar is in danger of developing childhood obesity as well as behavior problems. Providing nutritious, well-balanced meals is a critical building block for helping vulnerable children succeed.

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