



The United States Conference of Mayors

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Dubuque's Anti-Hunger Programs Featured in National Mayors' Report on Combating Childhood Hunger

A report released today by The U.S. Conference of Mayors includes three Dubuque anti-hunger programs among 45 initiatives in 24 cities across the country that are contributing to President Obama's goal of ending childhood hunger in the U.S. by 2015.

The mayors' report, published with the support of Sodexo, is intended to provide local officials across the nation with examples of successful approaches to meeting the nutritional needs of low-income children of all ages in their schools, communities, and homes. It includes descriptions of mayors' efforts to organize anti-hunger efforts city-wide, examples of how cities are making national programs fit their unique local situations, and examples of how individual institutions such as schools and hospitals are creating innovative solutions to their cities' childhood hunger problems.

Described in the mayors' report are:

- The Dubuque Summer Food Service Program which, through a City partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, expanded the USDA Summer Food Service Program to provide meals at playground sites serving the largest percentages of youth from families of low- and moderate-income in the City.
- The Backpack Program, which targets children in the lower-income areas of the City, including those receiving free or reduced-price school lunches. The program provides nutritious, kid-friendly food to children every Friday afternoon during the school year. It is a collaborative effort involving the John Deere Dubuque Works, the Dubuque Community School District, and the St. Stephen's Food Bank.
- Fill the Wagon, a program using wagons placed at various Dubuque Bank & Trust branches once each year to collect food for the Dubuque Food Pantry. Partnering in this effort is Every Child Every Promise, a Dubuque-based initiative that is fashioned after the national America's Promise program, whose mission is to improve outcomes for the area's youth.

“Because childhood hunger results in poorer academic performance, increased absences and tardiness, learning from the successes outlined in this report can help spread initiatives that break the cycle of hunger and poverty,” said Stephen J. Brady, president of the Sodexo Foundation. “We hope that this report inspires and encourages the increased efforts that are necessary during these continued difficult times when so many Americans are facing hunger.”

“Ending childhood hunger in America by 2015 is an enormous challenge. We need reports of successful models if we are to inspire and motivate people to take action,” said Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors. “In publishing reports like this one, our goal is to help mayors learn about the variety of programs they can employ and strategies they can pursue to combat hunger in their cities.”

Among the 23 other cities whose successful efforts to combat childhood hunger are described in the report are Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New Haven, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The mayors' report, *Childhood Anti-Hunger Programs in 24 Cities*, is available at www.usmayors.org. Information on the Dubuque summer program is available from Jerelyn O'Connor, Neighborhood Development Specialist, Office of the City Manager, (563) 589-4326 or joconnor@cityofdubuque.org; on the backpack program from Kris Hall, Director of Student Equity, Dubuque Community School District, (563) 552-3019 or khall@dubuque.k12.ia.us; and on the bank program from Nancy Keedy, Executive Director, Every Child Every Promise, (563) 588-2700 or nancy@everychild-everypromise.org.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (www.usmayors.org) is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.

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