

NRC Anti-Hunger Program Annual Reports

Food For All

SNAP Assistance

Erie County, Food For All assisted fifty two(52)households receive SNAP benefits and prescreened 104 households to see if they maybe eligible for SNAP .

Able-bodied Adults without dependents (ABAWD)

Educated the Human Service Community of the new SNAP time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD). A new federal rule where ABAWDS are only able to receive SNAP benefits for a total of three months during a 36-month period that started on January 1, 2016. Food For All met with advocates across the country, Neighborhood Legal Service, Genesee Department of Social Services and Erie County Department of Social Services, and information sessions with Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA) to learn the rules and regulations on the ABAWD program. FFA went on to inform the community and was on Channel four news explaining the new rules and the complications of the federal law. FFA also lobbied in Washington DC to local members of the Senate and House to discuss the implication of the rule hurting the poorest of the poor. FFA for all also went to Albany to educate the local senators and assembly members of the new federal rule that is making it more complicate for those in need to receive food and for the DSS workers to accurately complete paperwork.

Food demonstrations and Double Up SNAP benefits

Provided healthy food demonstrations at local farmers' markets which included, Colden Market, ECMC Market and the downtown Market. Helped promote and educate SNAP recipients of the Double Up program which allows local income families access to fresh local fruits and vegetables while also supporting the local farmers. Visited local senators and assembly members to educate them on the Double Up program that is all private and granted funded in hopes of receiving state money to help support the program.

Summer Food Service Program

Planned and executed the Summer Free lunch kickoff event at ECMC Farmers Market with the support of American Dairy Council and the Buffalo Board of Education Food Service Department. The event included an appearance from former Buffalo Bill, Steve Tasker.

Created a zip code friendly list of all the summer feeding sites and distributed it electronically.

Serve as a site for the Summer Lunch program at ECMC Farmers market and distributed meals to children on Fridays for eight weeks during the summer.

Power of Produce (POP)

Created and implemented the POP program after a Seattle's POP program and collaborating with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County and the ECMC Farmers Market. The program included healthy eating and physical activities for children who came to the market. The classes were on Friday for 8 weeks during July and August. Kids made fruit kebabs, smoothies and yogurt parfaits as well as played fitness bingo. After each class the kids were given \$2.00 to buy fruits and vegetables from the farmers.

Social Justice

SNAP

Food For All lobbied at the Federal Level asking Congress to protect SNAP from harmful policy proposals. Asking for them to permanently improve SNAP benefit adequacy by requiring SNAP benefits be calculated based on the cost of the low cost food plan. Also asking congress to ameliorate the harsh time-limits on benefits for certain jobless adults willing to work and fully fund SNAP Employment and Training efforts and the Administration's proposal to improve access for low-income seniors.

Child Nutrition

Food For All asked congress to provide a substantial investment of new funding to enact a child nutrition reauthorization bill that ; ensures nutrition quality , and simplifies program administration and operation. The 2016 reauthorization should maintain the critical gains made in the last reauthorization. It should support the significant role that decades of independent, science-based standards and recommendations have had on improving school meals.

NOEP – Genesee County

Food For All is in our the middle of our third year of a four year grant cycle from Hunger Solutions of NYS. The goal of the grant is to assist households in Genesee County to apply and receive SNAP benefits. July 1, 2015- June 2016 NOEP assisted 138 households with SNAP, we have also prescreened three hundred thirty-two (332) households to see if they may be eligible for the SNAP program. The program coordinator for the NOEP program is Kay Brion.

NRC Food Pantry

NRC Food Panty continues its mission to serve those in need of food each month. In 2016 we served an average of 400 individuals three days of food. Our pantry is open to anyone in need of food on Tuesdays 10AM-2PM and Wednesday 2:00PM- 5:30PM. Each household must bring proof of income and identification. NRC continues to work with Catholic Health System Residence Program, which allows residents to complete a one week rotation at the food pantry. Members from Kenmore Methodist Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the local LDS Elder Program help volunteer to help the food pantry run smoothly.

Submitted by, Kelly Ann Kowalski- Food For All Director