



SUNFLOWER SPOTLIGHT

USD 257 Iola

USD 257's Summer Meal Program took on new challenges in 2015! With the new mission of the program to "take the food to the kids" Iola expanded their sites and added breakfast to their meal offerings. Over 80 volunteers were recruited to help in the effort to provide children much needed nutrition during the summer months when school was not in session. A local church took on the challenge of serving as a site for both breakfast and lunch and lunches were served at the public swimming pool on a daily basis. The main site at Iola High School provided breakfast and lunch 5 days a week, which was an expansion over previous years in which meals were only available 4 days a week.

Daily prizes were randomly distributed through a "golden ticket" taped to the bottom of food trays to increase participation. Prizes included t-shirts, movie, bowling and swim passes as well as gift cards to the local Farmer's Market and local businesses. Special days were also promoted such as "free swim" days that were coordinated with the local recreation department in which over 100 prizes were given out to those who participated in the free lunch at the pool. (Free Lunch-Free Swim). "Feed 500" was a special day in which the goal was to feed 500 participants in one day.

The Summer Food Service Program at Iola was recently recognized for their efforts as the Summer Meal Program was nominated for the Thrive Award in the Health Category. Thrive Allen County is a non-profit organization that promotes health in the county and hands out annual awards to recognize these types of efforts.