



SUNFLOWER SPOTLIGHT

Arkansas City Recreation Commission

Arkansas City Recreation Commission was awarded a Cities Combatting Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS) grant. One of the primary goals of the CHAMPS grant is to increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program and provide service of At-Risk meals of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Arkansas City Recreation collaborated with the Arkansas City School District to ensure that meals and snacks were provided to areas of need in Arkansas City. With the help of the CHAMPS grant the Recreation Commission was able to add two more summer feeding sites. They provided a map that pinpointed the city's fourteen SFSP sites, sent postcards to businesses and organizations to distribute to families, set up a tasting booth, held drawings for four bicycle give-aways, and purchased wagons to transport snacks to the new swimming pool site. In an effort to minimize the stigma often associated with free meals, they distributed notices to public places where children are likely to be found (libraries, convenience stores, etc.) that invited the children to a free activity that would include a free meal. Collaboration was key to the success of the summer food service program this summer in Arkansas City!