Community Partnerships to Feed the Children

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Background

- About Trimble County
- How the library fits into the community
History of food services at TCPL

When I started working here during the Summer Reading Program of 2013, I visited the Summer Feeding sites at our local schools. The only problem with these programs was that they only ran for two weeks during summer school. In the years to follow, I would hear about the great funding opportunities to host Summer Feeding sites at public libraries. However, I was told that several years prior the library had been a site but due to lack of walking routes and transportation it was not utilized very much. During the next few years, I continued visiting the schools during summer school and we also provided a light snack for students who participated in Camp Read. Library staff members would even personally supply snacks that stayed behind the desk for kids during summer.
Early partnerships

- Health Departments
- Community Center
- Extension Office
- FRYSC
Feed the Children solution

- Huge supply with stops all over the county
- The library is their busiest stop, and we gained access to meal packs from our FRYSC because we were in such great demand
- No time constraints or embarrassment
- Community outreach stops and Camp Read
Looking toward the future

- This is a year-round program
- Nearly zero cost
- This spring we’ll partner with FRYSC again to provide lunch meals after our weekly Story Times
Final Thoughts

- Things to consider:
  - Your community’s needs
  - Potential challenges (location, time constraints)
  - Local partners
  - Funding sources

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