



COUNTY OF YOLO

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974 Meals Provided through Lunch at the Library Program

(Woodland, CA) – For nine weeks during the summer, 974 meals were served through the Lunch at the Library program to children at the Clarksburg Branch Library, located at 52915 Netherlands Avenue in Clarksburg, and the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, located at 1212 Merkley Avenue in West Sacramento.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 16.9 million children receive free and reduced-price meals during the school year through the National School Lunch Program. However, only 2.3 million, or around 12 percent, of these young people have access to free meals over the summer break.

In partnership with the YMCA of Superior California and the Walmart Foundation, the Yolo County Library was able to help fill this summertime gap by supplying free meals and educational library activities through the Lunch at the Library program. These enrichment activities included grocery store math, magnetic matchbox cars, rocket ship building with Legos, reading time, games and more. The Elk Grove School District and the Davis Joint Unified School District also assisted the program by providing meal preparation.

“This year we almost tripled the amount of free meals provided,” said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. “Children were able to eat a nutritious meal and participate in library activities that supported their literacy or learning skills.”

This is the second year that the Yolo County Library has been involved in a summer meal program; last year 332 meals were served at the Clarksburg Branch Library. This year the program was expanded with meals served twice a week at the Clarksburg Branch Library, with an average of 10 children per session between the ages of 6 to 17, and four days a week at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, where an average of 22 children between the ages of 4 and 17 attended the program. Children who participated said they liked Lunch at the Library because:

- “It’s the only time I can eat.”
- “I learned that the food pyramid is important.”
- “I meet good friends and...all the staff are nice.”
- “It is fun.”
- “I like the free lunch and the learning experience.”

- One parent even commented that this program is a “real sanity saver.”

For more information about the Yolo County Library, visit: www.yolocountylibrary.org or connect with the library on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

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