



Western Sunshine Winning Ideas



Manson School District, Manson, WA

Most of the children who participated in Manson's Summer Program are from agricultural families. Lack of transportation, inability to transport food, and staff shortages led to the creation of a partnership between the Manson School District and the Private Industry Council. This Sunshine Award-winning partnership sponsored three sites in the area that offered free meals to the children along with art projects, literacy programs, and nutrition and health education.



Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Concord, CA

In 1999, the Mt. Diablo USD put some great ideas into action to establish a cost effective program and increase participation. By mixing commodity fruit with purchased mixed fruit, they maximized their limited food resources. Before the school year ended, they cooked, bagged, and froze cookies to be used throughout the Summer Program. These two ideas meant the Mt. Diablo kitchen did not have to operate at full capacity during the summer—and the fruit and cookies were delicious! The district also minimized food waste by using clear plastic trays, allowing the children to take only what they wanted to eat.



City of Tustin Parks and Recreation, Tustin, CA

In 1998, the Tustin Summer Program launched a successful Summer Nutrition Camp aimed at reaching children who were at-risk for hunger. The children received nutritious meals as well as lessons in nutrition education, cooking, and crafts at five feeding sites. Over 1,500,000 meals continue to be served on an annual basis.



Prineville Summer Food Service Program, Prineville, OR

Terry Wood, a grandmother of five, knew the importance of providing meals to children during the summer months. She contacted the local school district, a day care center, a nearby Boys and Girls Club, the Parks and Recreation Department, a local work/study program sponsored by the Forest Service, and many other programs. All were eager to join in the Summer Program and serve meals to children. The Oregon Summer Food Service Program State agency gave them support and technical assistance. Terry and her staff took Spanish lessons to communicate with Spanish-speaking children and their parents.



El Monte City School District, El Monte, CA

With 2,400 children at seven sites each day, brown bag lunches might have been the way to go, but El Monte City School District knew there was a better way. Clear packaging allowed the children to select only what they wanted to eat, and this meant less plate waste. The packaging also provided better storage and temperature control, and increased food-handling sanitation at each site. And the program's activities included lessons in nutrition for the children and their families.