

NEWS RELEASE

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East Texas Food Bank's Summer Food Program Begins June 5th

(Tyler, Texas) May 31, 2018 – The East Texas Food Bank's Summer Food Program will kick-off **Tuesday, June 5th at Emmett J. Scott Park, 1710 North Confederate Avenue in Tyler, at 11:45 am.** The program provides free nutritious meals to children at over 70 sites throughout East Texas. When the school year comes to a close, children across East Texas will lose access to free and reduced-price meals they depend on for nourishment, including over 78,000 children in the 26-counties the East Texas Food Bank serves. Families with already overextended budgets are forced to make up for lost school meals, which the East Texas Food Bank experiences as an increased need for food assistance to support children and their families who live on the brink of hunger during the summer.

"The East Texas Food Bank wants to ensure that the break from the classroom during the summer does not mean a break from what may be the most important source of nutritious meals – school breakfast and lunch programs," said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank. "Our Summer Food Program fills that gap and works to ensure that our kids receive the food they need during their summer break and we try to keep it fun at the same time."

The East Texas Food Bank's Summer Food Program provides meals FREE to all children ages 1 to 18 at participating feeding sites. To participate, children just need to show up. There is no need to register and no proof of age or income is required. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled.

The East Texas Food Bank purchases all the food for the Summer Food Program. If you wish to make a monetary donation or find a site near you, visit EastTexasFoodBank.org/SummerFood.

About East Texas Food Bank

The East Texas Food Bank provides more than 22 million meals each year to 200 partner agencies in 26 East Texas counties. Our vision is for a hunger-free East Texas and our mission is to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas. The East Texas Food Bank is a member of Feeding America and Feeding Texas. To learn more, please visit EastTexasFoodBank.org. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/etfoodbank or follow our news on Twitter at twitter.com/etfoodbank.

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