

For Immediate Release  
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## **Food bank to provide weekend food during the summer for 2,000 kids at 15 Fort Worth feeding sites**

**SummerPacks for Kids is new twist on Tarrant Area Food Bank's BackPacks for Kids school program**

FORT WORTH (June 23, 2010) – Tarrant Area Food Bank has developed a summertime version of its school-year BackPacks for Kids weekend feeding program to feed children from low-income households during the summer.

The Food Bank is partnering with the City of Fort Worth at 15 of the City's 58 Summer Nutrition Programs sites to provide packs of food to children at risk of hunger on the weekends. The SummerPack sites were selected on the basis of exceptionally high percentages of children in those areas who are eligible for the national school meal programs.

"We expect that the SummerPacks program will feed about 2,000 children each week," said Bo Soderbergh, Tarrant Area Food Bank's executive director.

The Summer Packs contain single-serving, nonperishable foods such as breakfast bars, cereal, boxed milk, boxed juice, peanut butter crackers, dried fruit snacks, tuna packs and pop-top cans of Vienna sausage.

Sites for Summer Packs for Kids include Boys & Girls Clubs, Community Centers and other nonprofit organizations. Many of these Summer Nutrition Program sites are members of the Tarrant Area Food Bank network of feeding programs that regularly access food all year through the Food Bank.

"Tarrant Area Food Bank welcomes this partnership with the City of Fort Worth and its Summer Nutrition partners," Soderbergh said. "The Summer Nutrition sites offer locations where we can distribute weekend food. This allows us to extend the concept of our school-based BackPacks for Kids feeding program into the summer months when schools are closed."

This past school year, Tarrant Area Food Bank provided food for BackPacks for Kids at 19 schools in 10 cities in four counties.

During the summer months when schools are closed, millions of low-income children in Texas who eat nutritious school meals funded by the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program, go without these meals. To address this gap in nutrition, the Texas Department of Agriculture partners with organizations that have feeding sites to host the Summer Nutrition Program. These sites provide free meals to children in areas where more than 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or-reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program.

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK and its 13-county network of hunger-relief charities, each month, distribute emergency food to more than 43,000 families and serve more than 565,000 meals and snacks on agency sites. One-third of the individuals served by this network are children. For information on how to fight local hunger, please visit [www.tafb.org](http://www.tafb.org) or call 817-332-9177.