



Kids at  
Jerry  
Burrell  
Park

## Summer Lunch 2009



Central Park Line of Kids

This summer was an incredible time for the SICM Summer Lunch program, and all of our previous records were shattered in terms of how many kids depended on us for their daily lunch. We served a total of 37,766 meals to hungry kids this year, which is a 24% increase over 2008. In Schenectady, 73% of our children now qualify for free or reduced rate lunches when school is in session, and too many of these kids would not have regular meals during the summer break. That's where SICM and our tremendous teams of volunteers step in.

We served the children and youth at 12 locations across the city, including 4 city parks (Central Park, Jerry Burrell, Quackenbush, and Hillhurst), 3 Municipal Housing Complexes (Yates, Steinmetz and MacGathan's), and at 5 church fellowship halls or lawns (Faith United Methodist, Friendship House, Trinity Lutheran, Mount Olivet, and the SICM Lawn). For the first time ever, we served kids all ten weeks of the summer break. In past years, when we typically ran the program for 8 weeks, too many children had asked us where they could eat lunch until school began, and it was often heartbreaking to send them away. This year several additional volunteer teams stepped forward so we could expand the program for the entire summer. We averaged serving between 850 and 900 kids a day, and on 3 days we fed over 1,000 kids (first time reaching that milestone).

SICM obtained a grant from the USDA through the NY State Education Department to cover the cost of the meals, and the food was prepared and delivered by JR Proprietor's, a local food service provider. Twelve of our SICM Summer Interns helped with the program, led by Julie Cupp, our dedicated Summer Lunch Coordinator/Intern. Over 650 volunteers from 66 congregations, non-profit groups and businesses served the meals and interacted with the children. Many volunteers also donated snacks, games, books, coloring books, sports items, and back to school supplies for the kids, and these items were all very popular. We also give special recognition to the Niskayuna Consumer's Cooperative for their donation of 2,400 bottles of water for our thirsty volunteers on those hot summer days, and to CVS, which donated 1,000 coloring books and sets of crayons for all the kids at summer lunch!

In addition to the help from our volunteers, interns and site supervisors, we are also appreciative to other groups that partnered with us over the summer. These groups offered recreational and program activities for the kids, and SICM provided the meals. These partners included the Rotterdam Boys and Girls Club at Quackenbush Park, the Schenectady County Camp at Central Park, and the YMCA and Hamilton Hill Arts Center at Jerry Burrell. Collectively we helped thousands of kids fill their summer days.

We saw many more adults bringing children to summer lunch this year. Many of the adults had recently lost their jobs and were struggling to make ends meet in this difficult economic environment. One parent at Jerry Burrell told us that she had run out of food in her house the last week in June, and without summer lunch she wouldn't know where to feed her 3 kids. A child care provider at Central Park advised us that, for 2 of the children she cared for, summer lunch was their only meal of the day. One grandparent said a blessing for SICM and our volunteers, saying that we had no idea how critical summer lunch was this year for so many in the community. Over the course of the summer, we were flooded with personal stories of hunger, and the importance of the SICM Food Pantry and summer lunch in their lives.

And so, once again, we at SICM are blessed with the opportunity to help so many in need in our community, and we are inspired by the efforts of our volunteers.

***Thank you for Summer Lunch 2009!***

## SICM Summer Lunch Volunteer Groups – 2009

SICM could not function without the help of a multitude of volunteers. This is especially so for the Summer Lunch program, which is staffed almost exclusively by groups of volunteers from the churches and community. Sixty-six teams fed the kids this year:

Special thanks to the congregations who hosted and/or staffed the summer lunch program for the entire summer:

Faith United Methodist Church  
 Friendship House  
 Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist Church  
 Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Union Presbyterian Church, with help from Christ Church of the Hills



Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Crew

Congregations who served lunches over one or more weeks included:

First United Methodist	First Reformed Church, Schenectady
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
St. Paul the Apostle Church	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Tabernacle Baptist Church	Trinity Presbyterian Church
St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church	St. John the Evangelist RC Church
Stanford United Methodist Church	Lynnwood Reformed Church
St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church	Congregation Agudat Achim
Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Our Lady of Fatima	St. George's Episcopal Church
Burnt Hills United Methodist Church	Niskayuna Reformed Church
United Methodist Church of Scotia	Messiah Lutheran Church
First Unitarian Society of Schenectady	Calvary Tabernacle
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Zion Lutheran Church
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Rotterdam United Methodist Church
Bellevue Reformed Church	Emmanuel Friedens Church
Our Lady of Grace	



St. Stephen's Episcopal Folks



Summer Lunch Volunteers from St. Helen's



Scotia UMC Lunch Crew

Community groups and organization teams included:

GE teams from Global Research, Corporate, Energy and Energy Infrastructure (19 teams)	Assemblyman Amedore's Office
Baxter-Andrew and Griswold Funeral Home	Bank of America
109 <sup>th</sup> Air Force National Guard	Girl Scout Troop 358
Maple Ridge ARC and Schenectady ARC	Rotterdam Square Mall
Concerned for the Hungry	Schenectady Rotary Club
Roots and Wisdom staff and kids	
Wade Tours Inc.	

***We thank all these volunteers who helped feed our hungry kids this summer!***