



HEALTH & WELFARE COUNCIL of LONG ISLAND
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Friday, January 15, 2010

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Dear Community Leader:

As we are recuperating from the holiday season and fighting the cold of this brutal winter, planning for the summertime may seem to be a distant task, far in the future. However, promoting child well-being is a year-round endeavor. The recent New York Times article by Jason DeParle vividly portrays the explosion in utilization of safety net programs and provides foresight to our expected continued economic struggles well into the summer [1]. In anticipation of continuously growing needs, it is critical that we begin planning now. Collectively we must work to ensure children have year-round access to nutritious foods and fill the gaps of hunger.

Many students in your area eat healthy free or reduced-price meals during the school year as part of the National School Lunch Program. However, once the school year ends, many of those students are in households that struggle to access the same level of nutrition that school meal programs provide.

Organizations can play a major role in ensuring that children get good nutritious meals even when class is not in session. Please join the Health & Welfare Council's **Anti-Hunger Task Force** on **February 4, 2010** from **9:30am- 11:00 am** at Molloy's Suffolk County College Campus for a session on **how your agency can draw down federal funding** for programs such as the Summer Food Service Program to help reduce child hunger.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) can help fill the child hunger gap when school is not in session. By joining us on February 4th you will be able to learn more about the SFSP and other funding opportunities. The enclosed materials include information on how to RSVP to the event and location details. For additional information on the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island and the Anti-Hunger Task Force, please see enclosed materials or visit our website at www.hwcli.com.

Thank you for your commitment to educating and fostering child excellence in your community. We look forward to seeing you on February 4th.

Sincerely,

 Gwen O'Shea
 President/CEO

[1]<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/us/03foodstamps.html?pagewanted=3>

Thank you for your continuous support!

