

Expanding Community Access to Summer Food

April 6, 2022

State Nutrition Action Committee

Summer Food Service Program Work Group

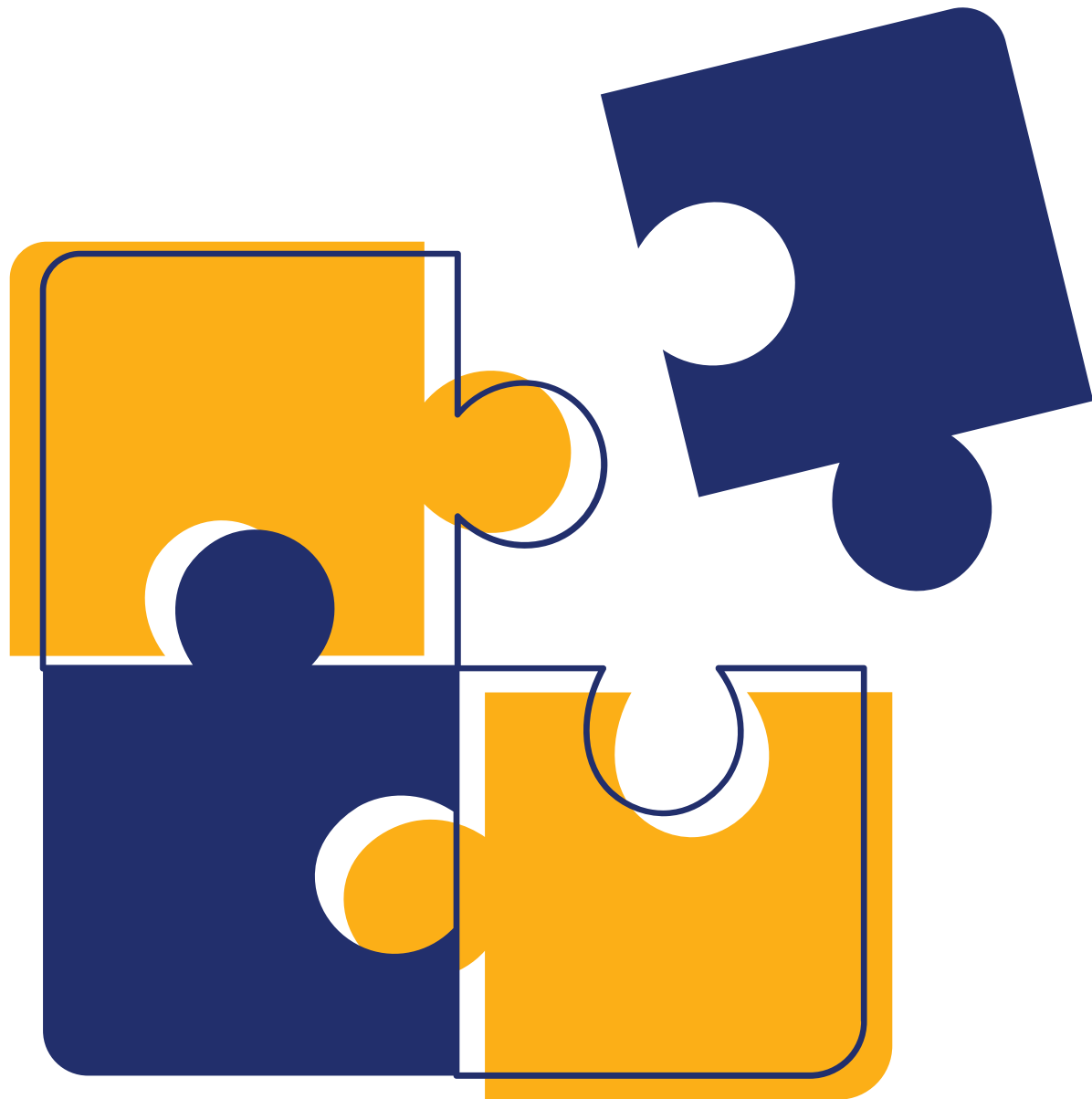


BACKGROUND ON THE SNAC SFSP WORK GROUP

The mission of the Arizona State Nutrition Action Committee (SNAC) is to strategically align nutrition and physical activity efforts across programs to ensure that all Arizonans have equal access to knowledge, as well as the ability to make choices to live a healthy lifestyle.

The SNAC Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Work Group is aimed at developing goals and strategies to implement improvements in the SFSP. The SNAC SFSP Work Group has identified program access as a significant barrier to participation in SFSP.





Objectives

- Learn about different food access challenges in summer food
- Hear from school districts who have expanded their summer food operations into community and mobile sites
- Get inspired to expand your summer food operation and meet kids and teens where they are during the summer

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Rick Hall

Operations Manager

Creighton Elementary School District

Alicia Ben

Director of Food Service

Ganado Unified School District #20

Alysia Ruelas

Director of Nutrition Services

Casa Grande Elementary School District

Lindsay Aguilar

Director, Food Services Department

Tucson Unified School District

POLL QUESTION



When have you participated in summer food?



Increasing Food Access Through a Mobile Meal Program





RICK HALL

Operations Manager
Creighton Elementary District

"In my experience over the years, I have come in contact with many people who need just a small amount of help to get by- it is not uncommon for these people's lives to unravel if they cannot find the proper assistance. My goal is to help those who are going through stressful experiences; even if it is just that small amount that they need.

There is no singular "right" approach when it comes to reaching many. Therefore, I look for any and all possibilities to make a difference. I often find that my biggest challenge is NOT saying "no." I believe that we should all try to find some way to make a difference.

I am 1 part family, 1 part teacher, 2 parts volunteer, and 3 parts silly. Too many parts? Probably not! I will always find the time to help others. With all that said, thank you for joining me in my journey today!"

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER MEALS



Assessing the Need for Summer Meals

- Are you high free & reduced?
- Do you find that you typically have high summer participation?
- Do you have summer programs at your sites?
- Do these programs run all summer long?

We should do all we can to ensure children in Arizona have access to summer meals since there is such a large need!

INTERNAL BARRIERS



Internal Barriers to Operating Summer Meal Service

- Apathetic or detached
- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Unaware of possible service scenarios
- Food safety
- Kids can't get to the schools regularly

OVERCOMING BARRIERS



Overcoming Internal Barriers as a Team

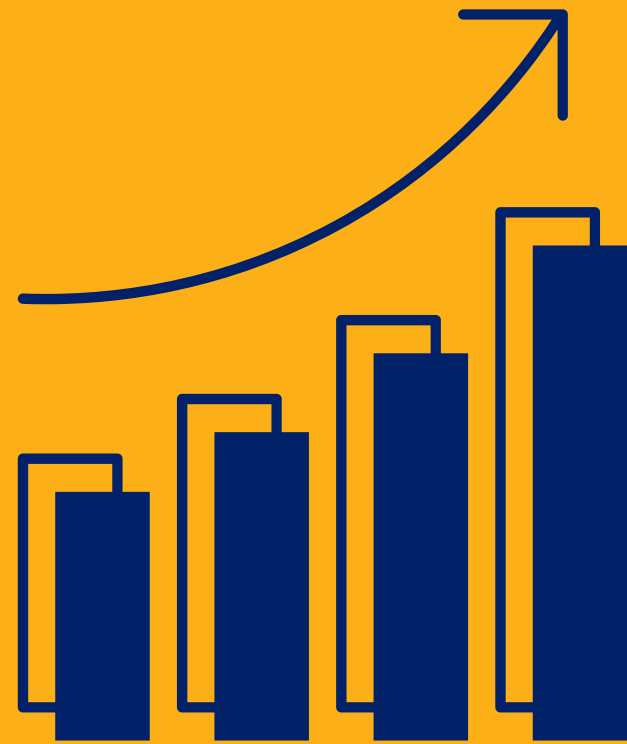
- Communicate and understand the need
- Partner up and strategize
- Take care of your staff with summer employment
- Be smart and start small
- Possible service scenarios
- Temperature controlled
- Go to others

WHAT DRIVES SUMMER MEALS

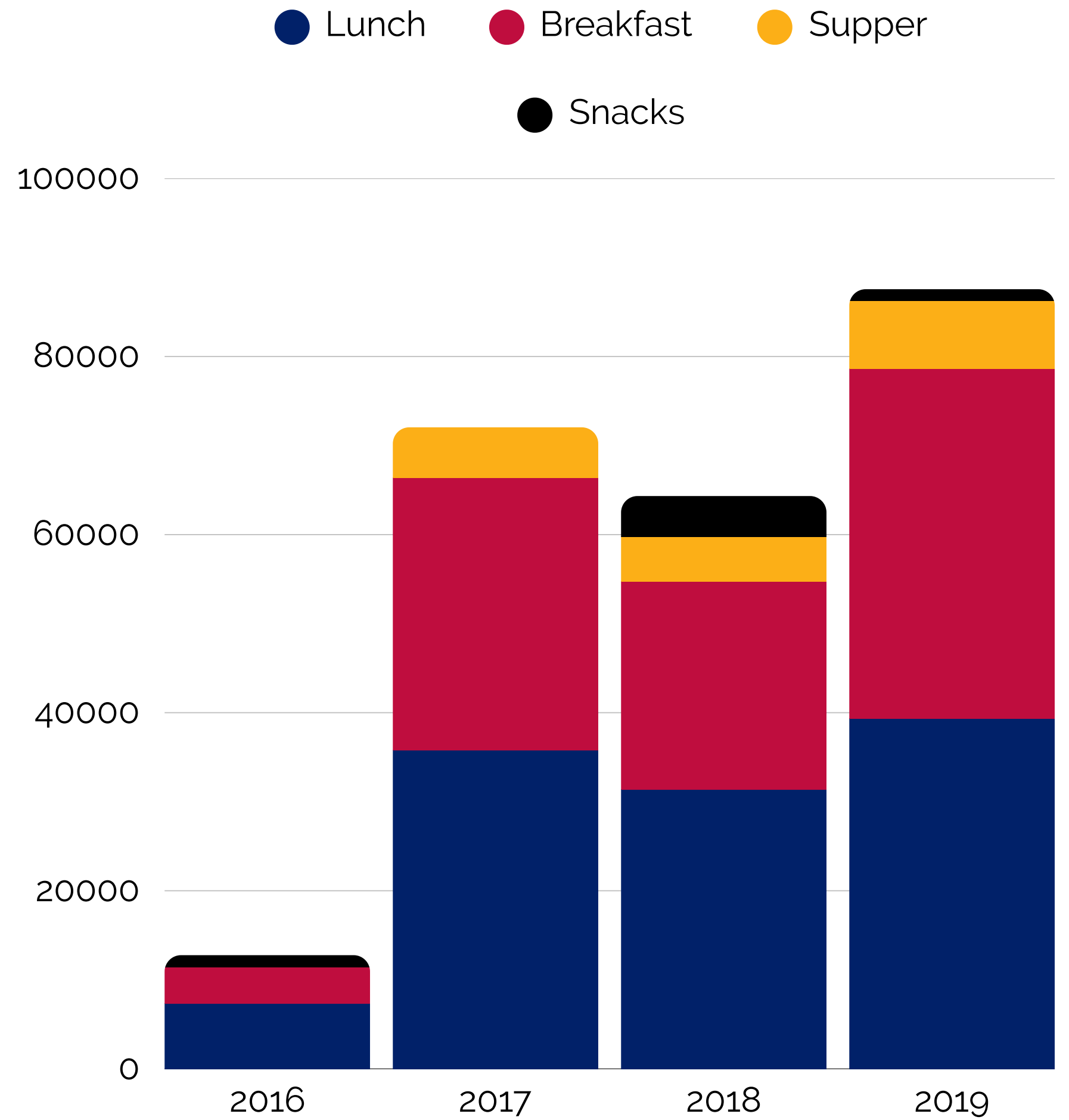


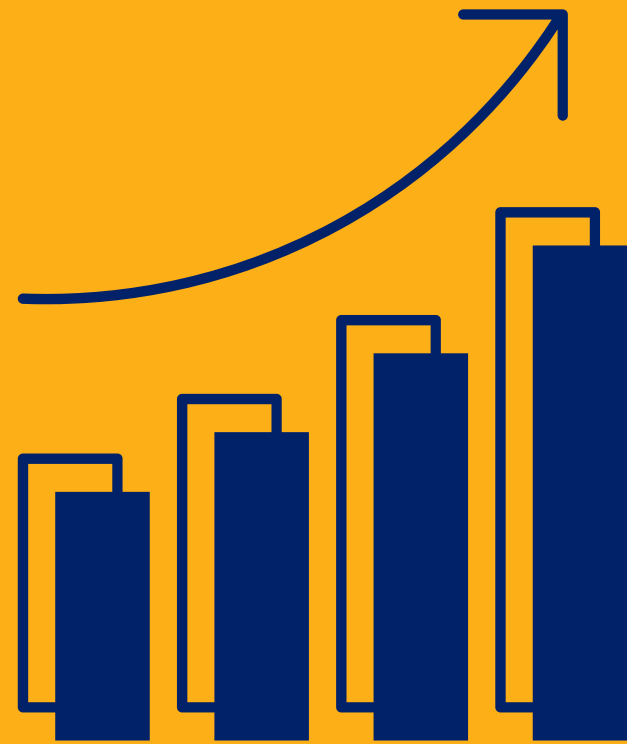
Finding What Keeps Participants Returning

- The need in your district
- Access to locations that provide meals
- Quality food
- Fun enrichment and social activities

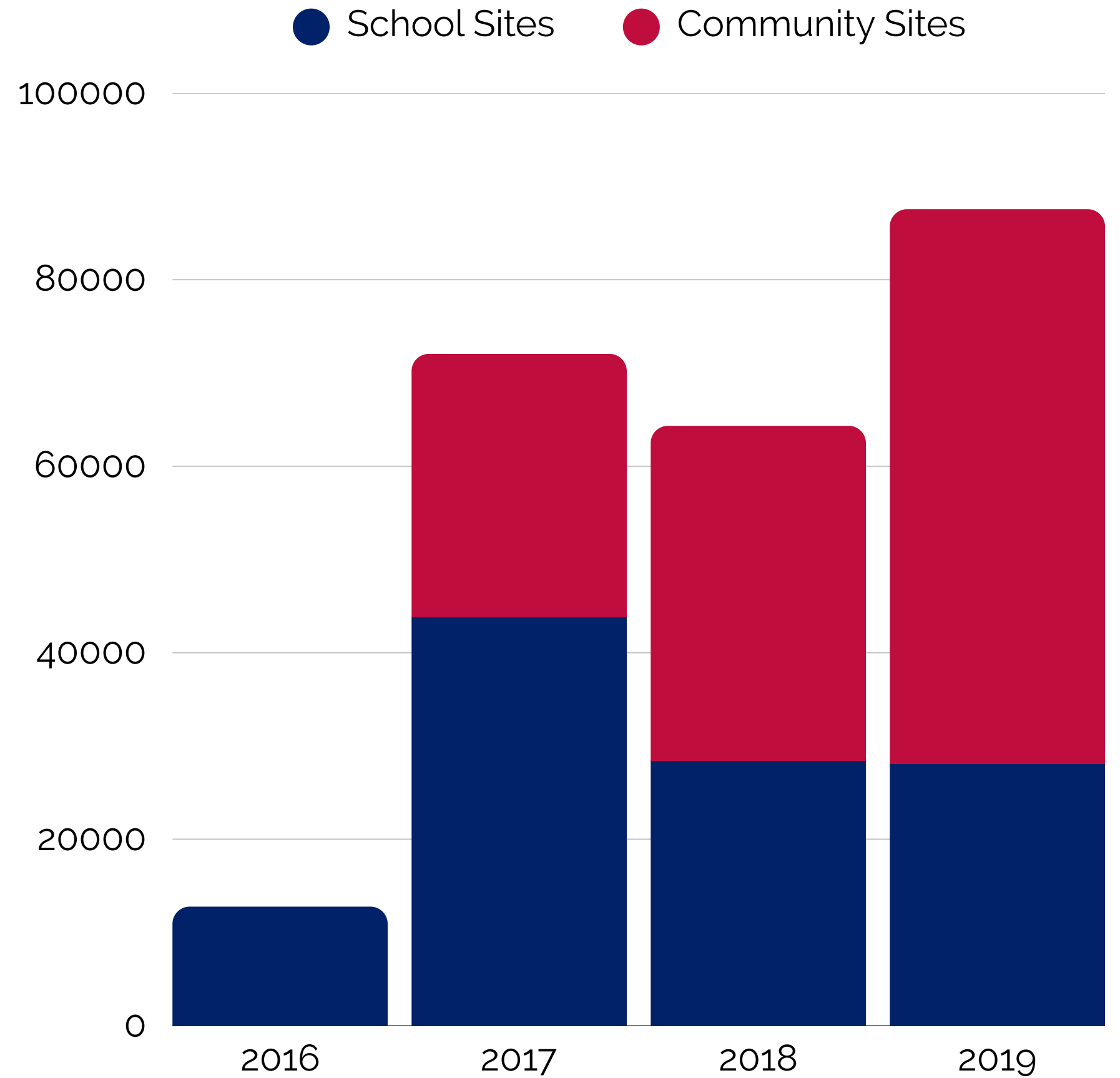


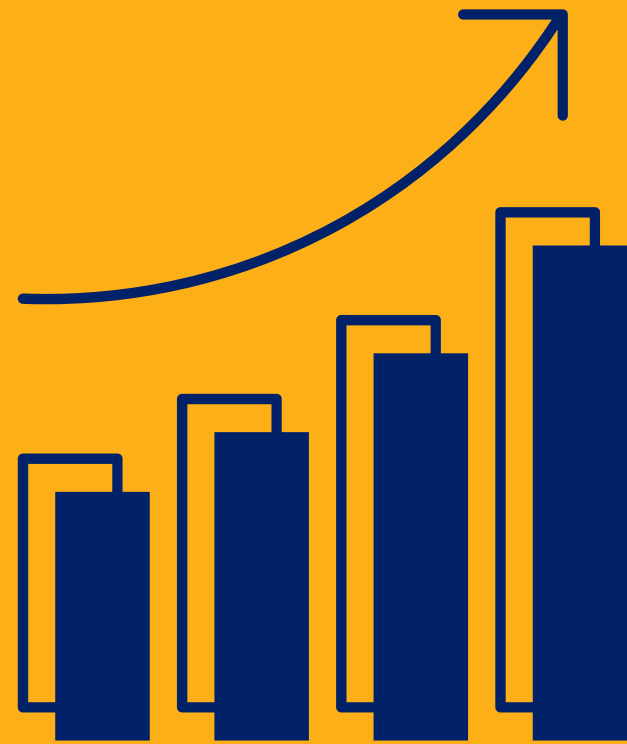
SHOW ME THE
MONEY!





SHOW ME THE
MONEY!





2019 NUMBERS

1000 Breakfasts per day X **\$2.09** = **\$2090**

1500 Lunches per day X **\$3.65** = **\$5475**

\$2090 Breakfast + **\$5475** Lunch =

\$7565 Total daily reimbursement

130 hours a day for 27 sites X **\$15** per hour = **\$1950** Labor

Half your daily reimbursement in food = **\$3782** Food Cost

Reimbursement – Labor – Food Cost = Gross Profit

\$7565 – **\$1950** – **\$3782** = **\$1930** in the bank/day

- It takes commitment to get to those large numbers
- Assuming that half of the reimbursement for your food cost is VERY high

BUS SERVICE



BUS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Route 1



Breakfast:

Departure: 7:00am

Return: 10:00am

Lunch:

Departure: 10:45am

Return: 1:30pm

1. McDowell East Apartments

a. Breakfast 7:15-7:45am, Lunch 11:00-11:30am

b. 25th Street along sidewalk

2. Portland Street

a. Breakfast 8:00-8:40am, Lunch 11:45-12:20pm

b. Portland St between 26th and 30th Streets

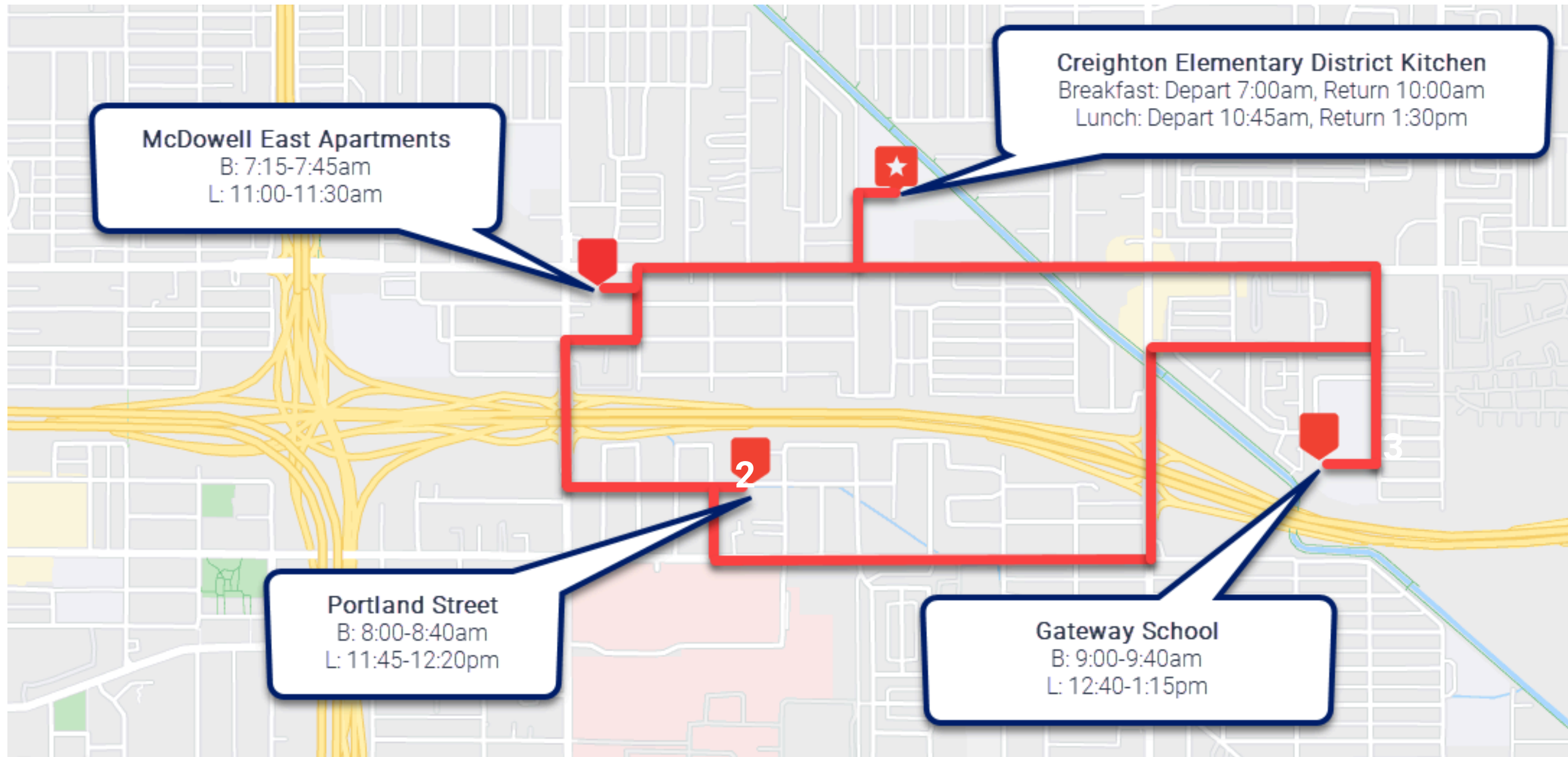
3. Gateway School

a. Breakfast 9:00-9:40am, Lunch 12:40-1:15pm

b. North end of Gateway School parking lot OR

c. South side of KPAZ parking lot

BUS SERVICE SCHEDULE: ROUTE 1



BUS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Route 2



Breakfast:

Departure: 6:55am

Return: 10:00am

Lunch:

- Departure: 10:40am

- Return: 1:30pm

1. Monte Vista School

a. Breakfast 7:15-7:45am, Lunch 11:00-11:30am

b. Northeast Bus Loop

2. Biltmore Point Apartments

a. Breakfast 8:00-8:40am, Lunch 11:45-12:20pm

b. 28th Street & Osborn - on 30th Street

3. Palm Ln

a. Breakfast 9:00-9:40am, Lunch 12:40-1:15pm

b. Palm Lane and 31st Street

VAN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Routes 1-3

Van Route 1

1. **Stop 1: McDowell East Apartments**

- a. Breakfast: 7:30-8:15am, Lunch: 10:45-11:25am
- b. Serve in poolside area

2. **Stop 2: Roosevelt East Apartments**

- a. Breakfast: 8:25-9:10am, Lunch: 11:35-12:10pm
- b. Serve in poolside area

Van Route 2

1. **Stop 1: Fillmore Place**

- a. Breakfast: 7:30-8:15am, Lunch: 10:45-11:25am
- b. Serve in office area

2. **Stop 2: City Place Apartments**

- a. Breakfast: 8:25-9:10am, Lunch: 11:35-12:10pm
- b. Serve in poolside area

Van Route 3

1. **Stop 1: Gateway Community College**

- a. Deliver Breakfast: 7:15am, Deliver Lunch: 10:30am
- b. Deliver inside to cafe (Gateway serves)

2. **Stop 2: Radius Apartments**

- a. Breakfast: 7:45-8:15am, Lunch: 11:00-11:30am
- b. Serve in common area



SUMMER MEALS OUTREACH

CREIGHTON CHILD NUTRITION

FREE SUMMER MEALS

for all kids 18 & younger
May 24 - July 22
GRAB & GO MEALS

SCHOOLS SERVING EVERY WEDNESDAY

7:30 - 10:30 AM Papago School Monte Vista School Excelencia School The Creighton Academy	1:30 - 3:30 PM Gateway School Loma Linda School Machan School
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MOBILE STOPS

Tuesday	Roosevelt East Apartments Roosevelt & 33rd St. Fillmore Place Apartments	8 - 8:30 AM 9 - 9:30 AM 10 - 10:30 AM
Wednesday	Portland & 26th St. McDowell East Apartments Radius Apartments	8 - 8:30 AM 9 - 9:30 AM 10 - 10:30 AM
Thursday	Palm Lane & 31st St. Coronado Rd. & 18th St.	9 - 9:30 AM 10 - 10:30 AM

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



TRANSPORTING MEALS

**Easy to move,
holds 60 meals**



**Lightweight,
holds 36 meals**





IT TAKES A
TEAM!





QUESTIONS?



Please type your questions into the Q&A.



THANK YOU!

Rick Hall

Creighton Elementary District

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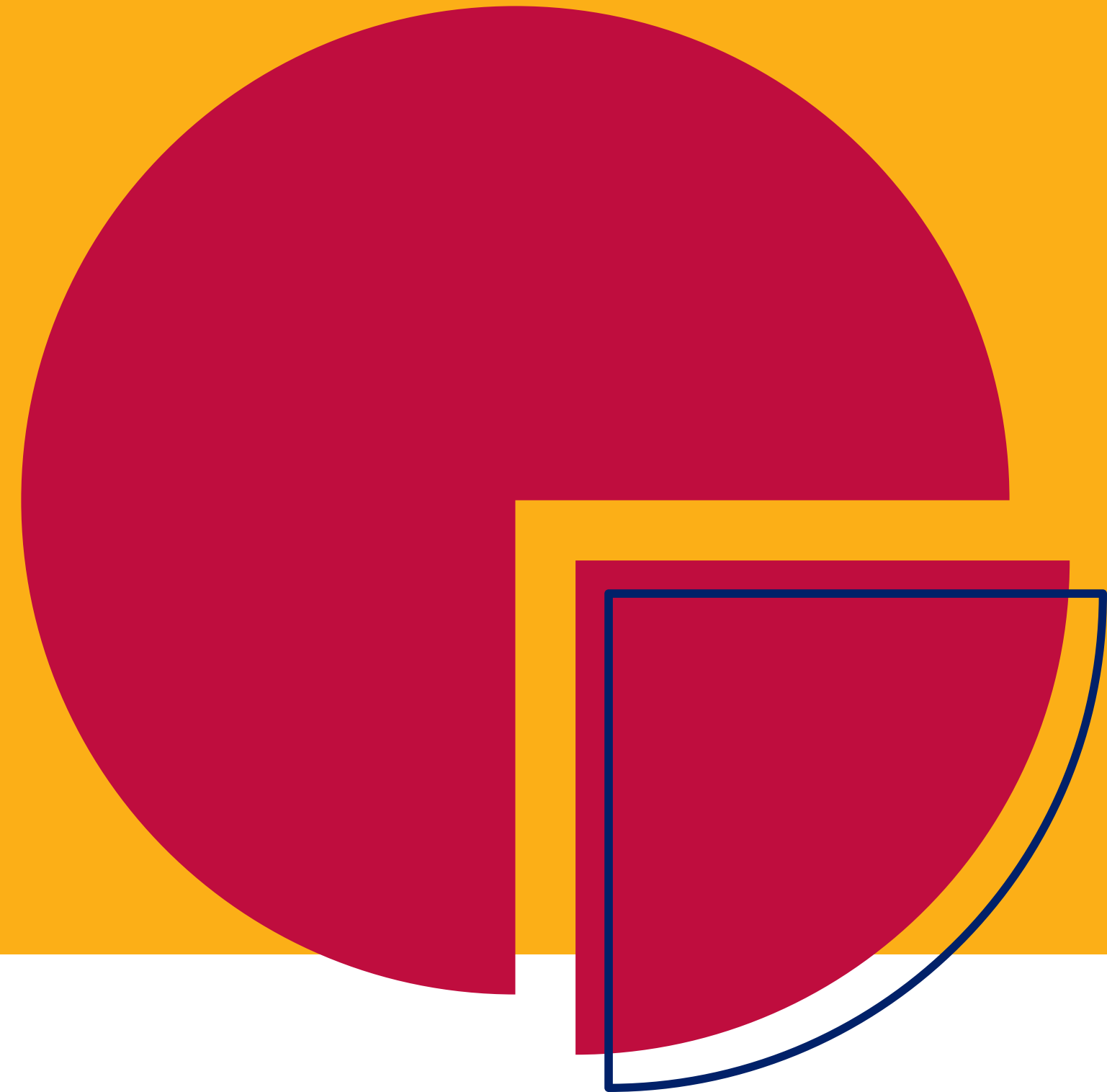
602-381-6048

www.creightonschools.org/parents_and_students/food_services

<https://www.facebook.com/CreightonChildNutrition>



Building Site Partners





ALICIA BEN

Director of Food Service
Ganado Unified School District #20

Alicia is a Ganado High School Alumni. She will have worked for Ganado Unified School District (GUSD) 28 years total this May of 2022. She previously worked as the Cafeteria Manager for 25 years at Ganado Middle School, and has worked as the Director of Food Services for 3 years.

Alicia has operated the Summer Food Service Program every summer since starting at Ganado, from managing sites, to preparing meals.

As the current Director of Food Services, Alicia oversees the 4 GUSD schools, which had a total enrollment of 1,284 students in school year 21-22. Alicia is passionate about this field and strives to serve quality meals to her students.

RECOGNIZING FOOD INSECURITY IN THE COMMUNITY



Food Insecurity Rates in Rural Areas

- Participating in CEP district-wide. 90-98% free and reduced-price percentage
- The Ganado School District is spread out about a 25 mile radius
- Children can be on the bus for up to one hour to school
- Three routes on dirt roads
- Grocery stores were 30 miles away. Since 2020, there are two new stores



MAP OF OUR ROUTES





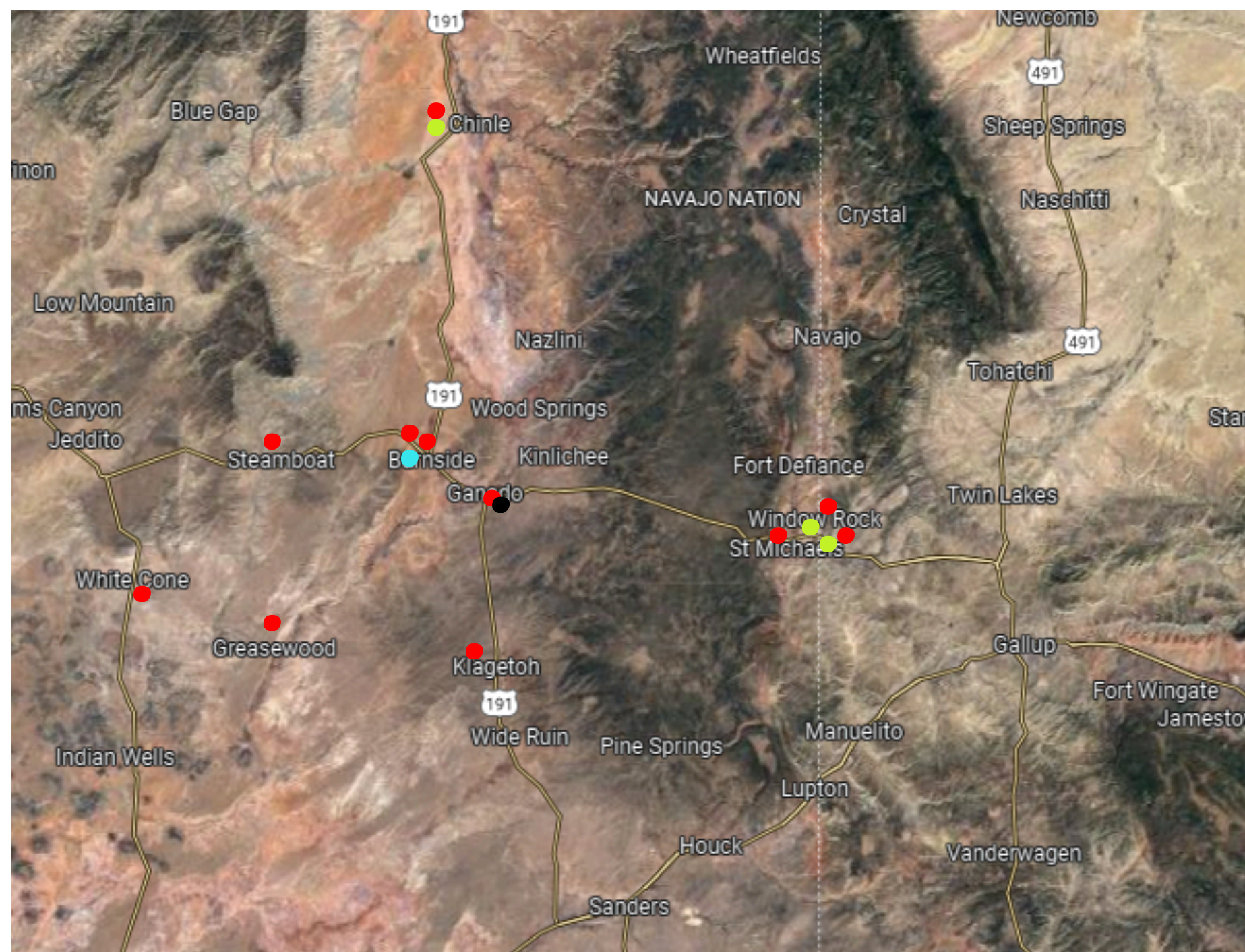
MAP OF OUR ROUTES





FOOD AVAILABILITY

- Gas station/convenience store (2016-2019)
- Gas station/convenience store closed (2022)
- Grocery store (2016-2019)
- Grocery store (2020 - present)

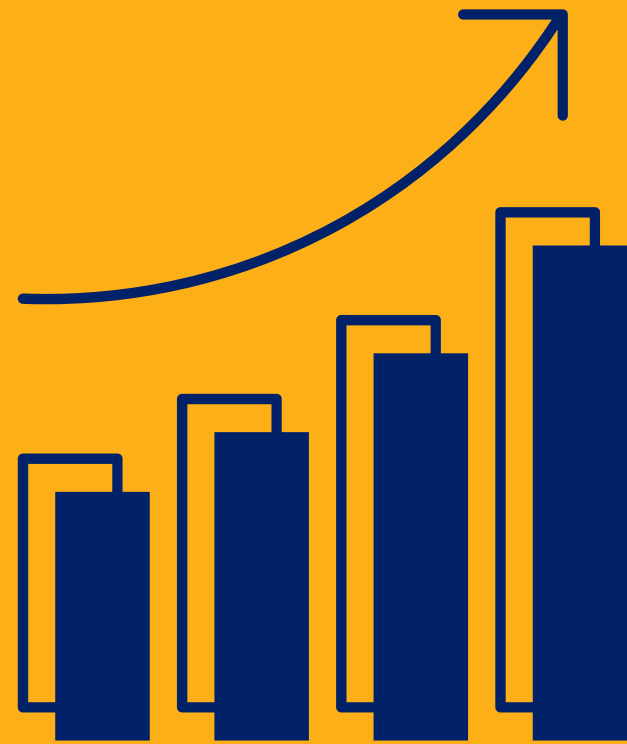




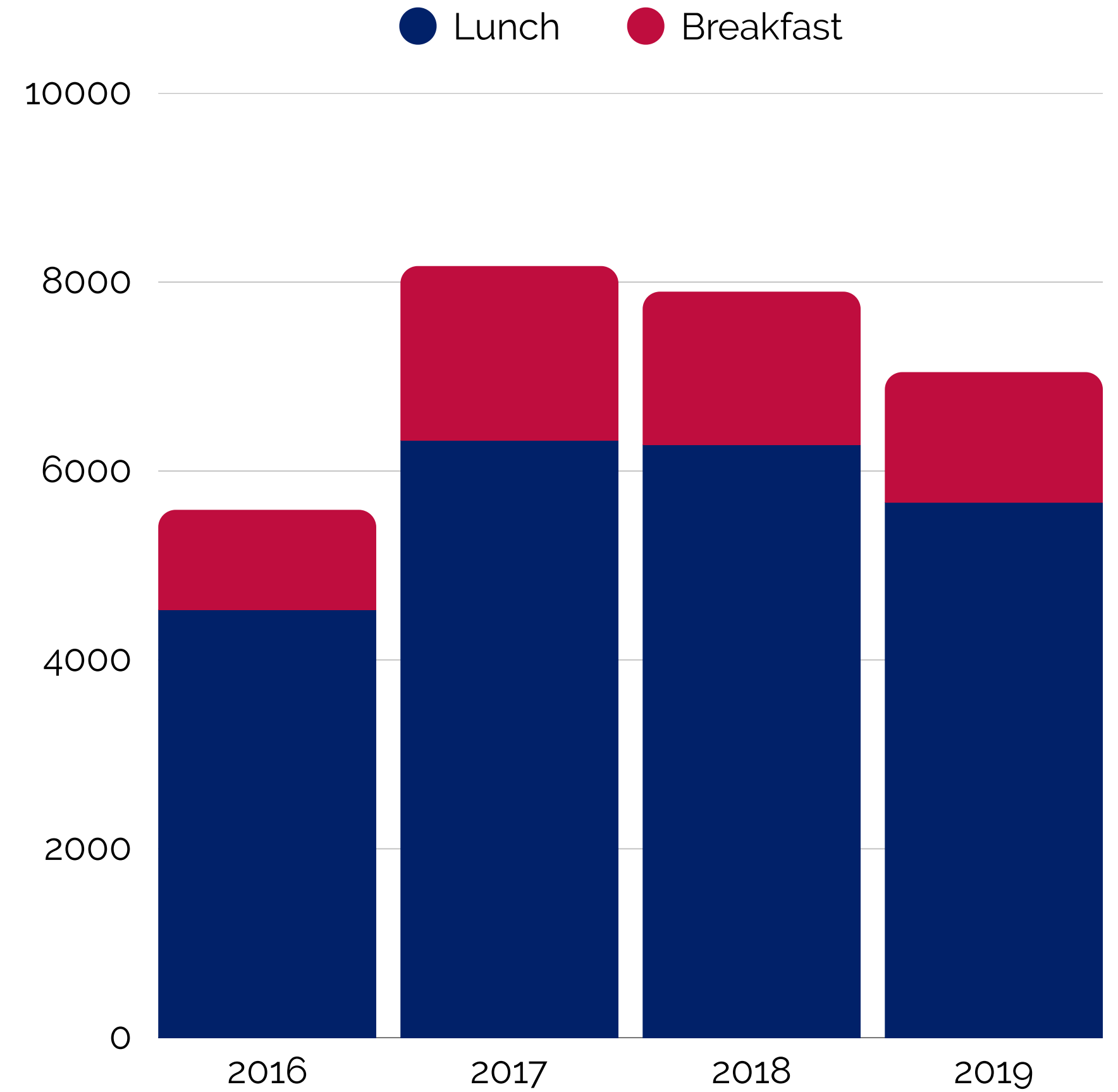
SITE ADDITIONS

● Sites in 2016 ● Sites added in 2017 ● Sites added in 2018





MEALS SERVED



THE SFSP SOLUTION



Using SFSP as a Band-aid for Food Insecurity

- Offer free meals for communities in our service areas for all children in location closest to them (chapter houses)
- Quality hot meals for breakfast and lunch
- Nutritious meals that could help them during the summer rather than eating high calorie junk foods

SFSP BONUSES

More Than Just a Nutrition Program

- Offers the space for children to congregate and play with peers (many children need a space to socialize to help with mental health)
- Offers opportunity for programs and community outreach for public education to youth
- Builds a sense of community with the children



QUALITY MEALS

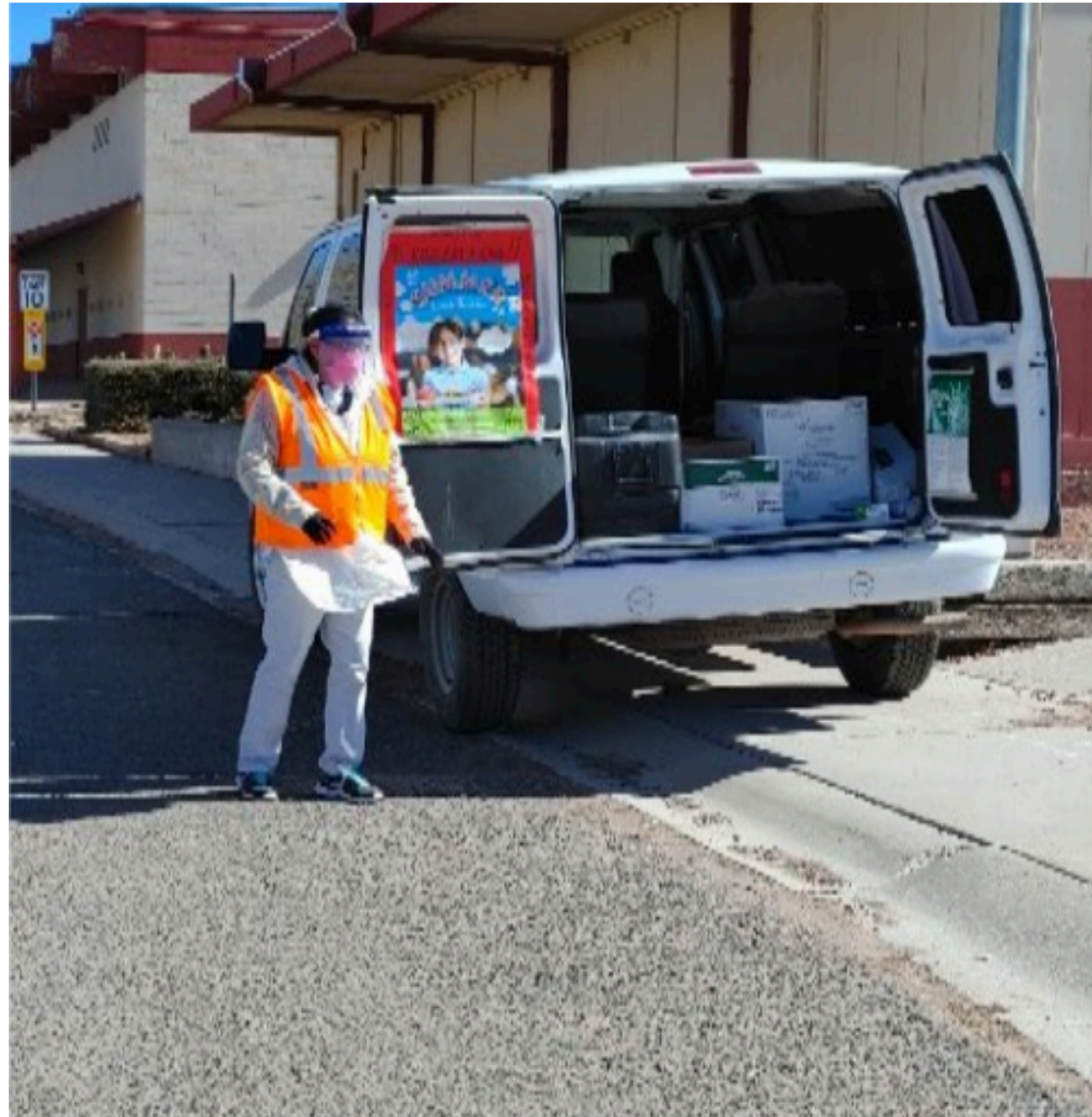
Taking Pride in Your Meals

- We aim to serve hot meals at all times and try to stay away from pre-packaged meals



PANDEMIC MEALS

Curbside grab-n-go



PANDEMIC MEALS

Served at the Chapter House



BUILDING COMMUNITY SITES



Finding Ways to Bring Awareness of Summer Meals

- Attending community meetings and educating the community about SFSP and how it works
- Teach about Site Agreements (provide space, tables, volunteers, meal serving, transportation)
- Identify budgets to help the sites
- Kick off events

CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN



Current Challenges

- Navajo National protocols are still strict and public gathering is still limited
- Chapter closures
- School closures due to the pandemic
- Transportation issues
- Meal counts went down, reimbursement went down, lower funding
- Food supply chains, low supplies, weird substitute food items
- Outage of cutlery for distribution
- Lack of volunteers

QUESTIONS?



Please type your questions into the Q&A.



THANK YOU!

Alicia Ben

Ganado Unified School District #20

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www.ganado.k12.az.us/Food_Services



Summer Meals on the Move





ALYSIA RUELAS

Director of Nutrition Services
Casa Grande Elementary School District

"I have lived in Casa Grande the majority of my life; my middle school principal is now my colleague! I've worked for the Casa Grande Elementary School District for 7 years total, 6 of them in Nutrition Services, and 4 of them as the Director of Nutrition Services. I have 3 children that attend our district along with other family and friends' children. Being a part of the community for almost my entire life has aided in understanding the needs in the area."



COMMUNITY BARRIERS



Barriers that limit community participation

- Student feeding during school year
- 80% Free and Reduced percentage
- Widespread community
- Family transportation

TEAMWORK

Working Together for Success

- Meet often
- Discuss locations
- Discuss times
- Weather
- Communicate with City programs



ACTIVITIES

-
- Crafts
 - Guest appearances
 - Theme days
 - Outdoor activities



BENEFITS

Advantages to Expanding Summer Meals

- Student smiles
- Appreciation from the community
- Summer jobs for staff



SITES IN ACTION

On the scene at some of our community sites



CHALLENGES



Challenges Affecting Children's Access to Summer Meals

- Administration
- Transportation
- Site agreements
- Participation in July
- Participation in schools

TIPS AND TAKEAWAYS

Increase the impact of your food program during the summer!

- **Be vocal about the need to the district.** We are the only voice to speak on behalf of students that need it.
- **Assess community needs.** Some students don't have running water or electricity.
- **Evaluate your fleet.** We have 3 trucks, 3 vans, and we pay to use 3 transportation buses.
- **Recruit the staff to help.** We have a volunteer list to see how many sites we can operate based on volunteers (usually about 30 volunteers).



QUESTIONS?



Please type your questions into the Q&A.



THANK YOU!

Alysia Ruelas

Casa Grande Elementary School District

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Finding Balance with Community Sites





LINDSAY AGUILAR

Director, Food Services Department
Tucson Unified School District

Lindsay Aguilar (Registered Dietitian and certified School Nutrition Specialist) is the Director for the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) Food Services Department. Lindsay has worked at TUSD for over 17 years where she oversees the operations of the various federal child nutrition programs throughout the district and nutrition support services.

Lindsay has a passion for child nutrition and the importance of the role of nutrition in education. Lindsay is an active member of the School Nutrition Association, serving on the SNAAZ Executive Board over the past 10 years, SNA Board of Directors starting in July and is a preceptor for multiple dietetic internships. As a Tucson native and alumni of TUSD and U of A, Lindsay feels very fortunate to be able to contribute to the community through the work she does in child nutrition and community partnerships she is privileged to be a part of.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Increasing Access to Summer Meals

- Community need for summer meals beyond schools
- Changes in summer school programs
- How can we better access our students and other children during the summer to provide meals?
- Decreases in summer participation at schools and increases in participation at community sites
- Where are children going in the summer?

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Win-Win For All!

- Establishing and sustaining community partnerships for summer meals...if you build it they will come!
- Open to conversations
- Get creative
- Eliminates duplicating services
- Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA)
- Community sites are an extension of our school sites
- Greater community reach
- City Parks & Recreation summer programs, Churches, Public Libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, Neighborhood Centers, Community Food Bank, Charter & Private Schools

KEY ELEMENTS

Success with SFSP Community Partnerships

- SFSP compliance
- Training of community site staff
- Communication and organization
- Meal program efficiencies
- Leveraging resources with community partners
- Delivery and service partnership
- Marketing and promotion
- Menu planning and service models for optimal food quality- Foods have to be held during transport prior to service



QUESTIONS?



Please type your questions into the Q&A.



THANK YOU!

Lindsay Aguilar, RD, SNS

Tucson Unified School District

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<http://tusd1.org/Departments/Food-Services>



Thank you!

