Hello Dr. McCarthy,

It was nice chatting with you today about the possibility of the City of Langley allowing Growers to Growers host a Summer Meals site at the Langley Park. Studies show that school meals provide the majority of daily calories low income children receive. Hunger is not relegated to the school year calendar and summer months are often times of food shortages for children. There are 50 school days off for summer vacation this year; making 100 missing meals, per child, that families need to come up with during the summer months. Food stamp (SNAP) allotments and food bank points to not adjust during the summer, adding significant servings to cover for already stretched budgets.

In a recent USDA News Releases, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has called upon communities to ensure that children do not go hungry when school is out, noting, "Children need healthy food all year long to grow and achieve to their highest ambitions. Today, I challenge our partners and communities across the nations to work with us to ensure that all children have access to healthy food during the summer months". The full release is available here: USDA NEWS RELEASE:


There is a need for Summer Meals on Whidbey. The city of Langley, and much of the unincorporated areas, are designated as having a high percentage of children at risk for summer hunger. To see site eligibility, here is the Food Research and Action Committee (FRAC) map. The areas colored green denote eligible areas for Summer Meals sites.

http://216.55.182.132/FairData/SummerFood/map.asp?command=find&vis=2%7C1%7C2%7C2%7C2%7C1%7C1%7C1%7C&map_option=loc_and_site&street=&city=&state=&zipcode=98260

Also from the FRAC map, attached is the map showing the percentage of 185% poverty for youth age 19 or under, showing that the proposed site of Langley Park is at the 50-60% rate:

http://216.55.182.132/FairData/SummerFood/map.asp?command=scope&annot=%7C&vis=2%7C1%7C2%7C2%7C2%7C1%7C1%7C1%7C&map=1&width=0&table=&scope=-
In response to this challenge, our firm, Outline LLC has formed the Growers to Growers program and with the blessings and umbrella of Good Cheer intends to ensure children in our community have full tummies this summer. We respectfully ask the City of Langley to allow Growers to Growers to operate a Summer Meals site at the Langley Park this summer as part of the Simplified Summer Meals Program (SSFP). The SSFP is administered by the USDA and OSPI. Schools, government entities, and non-profits can sponsor feeding sites. For this summer and this proposal, Growers to Growers will operate as a program of Good Cheer. The sponsoring agency of the site, called a Kid's Cafe, will be Food Lifeline, of which Good Cheer is an agency partner. More information on Food Lifeline's Kid's Cafe is available here: http://www.foodlifeline.org/hunger/solutions/KidsCafe.html

Growers to Growers will work with Good Cheer to obtain the meals from Food Lifeline and will distribute them Mondays-Fridays from 12:00-12:30 at the park. Through the Summer Meals program, all youth aged 18 and under are encouraged to participate; it is the site that is approved, not the child. There are no income verifications or questions asked. The meals will be served from a cooler each day with volunteers arranged by Growers to Growers. All meals will be eaten on site (creating social dining opportunities for youth is a large benefit of the program), as per Summer Meals regulations. A removable banner will be hung each day during mealtime altering youth and families to the program. Growers to Growers will work with community partners, including Sno-Isle libraries, Goose Market, local farmers, and other organizations to offer food studies based activities for children on occasion during the meal program. Having directed a Summer Meals program site on Whidbey for the past two summers, I am confident that there is both a need for this program and the resources to make it successful.

The City of Langley is requested to allow Growers to Growers access to set up at the park Mondays-Fridays from 11:30-12:30 to serve meals and provide free programming. The City Langley will have full approval of all publicity materials related to the site and will be acknowledged and recognized as a partner in making sure Summer is not a vacation from steady nutrition. I would be more than pleased to meet with the Council or merchant groups to discuss the program and answer questions.

In order to move forward with the application to Food Lifeline, a site must be
secured. I appreciate the consideration of this proposal and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Miriam Coates

Outline llc
7256 Fiske Road
Clinton, WA 98236
p-360.221.8819
f-360.221.8774
http://www.outlinestudio.com/