



Rural

Food For People: Eureka, CA

Food for People has sponsored the Summer Food Service Program in Humboldt County, California since 1997. The program has grown from serving 3,500 lunches the first year, to over 14,000 lunches this summer. The 21 lunch sites under our sponsorship are spread over 130 miles, and our site partners include schools, Parks and Recreation programs, day camps, churches, Boys and Girls Clubs, and youth drop-in centers. Food for People staff deliver lunches within a 15 mile radius of our food bank, and we rely on United Parcel Service (UPS) and our local bus system, the Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA), to get lunches to more distant sites.

In 1999, our Program Coordinator attended a mandatory training and learned that the Oregon Food Bank had established a partnership with their local bus system to deliver lunches. She brought the idea back home and asked the HTA if they would

transport lunches on their regular delivery route to help expand our program to remote communities. They generously agreed and began taking coolers to the city of Fortuna. This summer marks our 12th year in partnership and HTA now helps us provide lunch to nearly 200 children in the towns of Loleta, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Scotia, and Willow Creek every day. The bus drivers donate 155 miles of food transportation per day, for a total of over 8,500 miles for the summer.

In 2001, we sponsored a site in Orick, California, about 45 miles from our food bank. The volunteer who had been taking lunches there was no longer able to, but we did not want to give up a site where 20 children were eating lunch each day. We put an ad in the paper seeking a volunteer driver. We approached Park Service employees who were commuting to Orick daily. No one was able.

Eventually, we approached UPS to ask how much they would charge to take lunches on their regular delivery route. They offered to do it for free! Over the last 10 years, UPS has helped us feed children at our most far flung sites. This summer they donated 130 miles a day, or 7,150 total miles.

We would not be able to serve lunch to needy children across our county without the support of our local UPS and HTA drivers. The innovative partnerships we have formed help minimize our costs so we can afford to continue sponsoring this valuable program.



Food that's in when school is out.



Photo 1: Food for People's Delivery Driver Seth Perez and UPS Driver Michael Adams with a cooler of lunches for our site in Redway, CA

Photo 2: Food for People's Delivery Driver Seth Perez loading coolers on the Humboldt Transit Authority bus bound for Scotia, CA

