

FEEDING THE CHILDREN FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

When do you run the program?

On weekdays during the local school system's Christmas break and Spring Break (excluding Christmas Day).

How do you enroll children?

The school system has sanctioned the program and allows us to distribute and collect sign-up forms.

How do children get the food each day?

Volunteers prepare, assemble, and deliver to children's homes, following prepared instruction routes.

What do you feed the children?

A hot lunch and a cookie.

What does the program cost?

About \$1 -\$1.25 to feed one child one meal.

How do you pay for supplies?

Financial gifts, in-kind gifts, and at-cost gifts. We will show you ways to get funding.

Do we need Health Department approval?

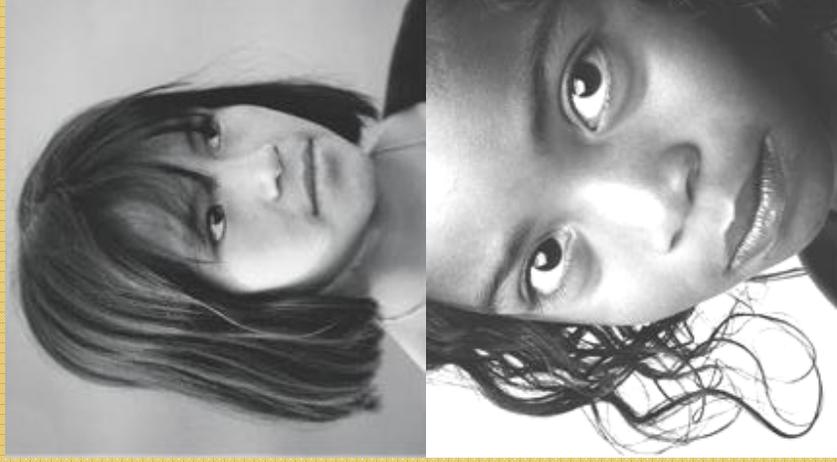
No. Not when you're giving away food at no cost.

How big will my program be?

You can start as small as you can manage, stay the same size, or grow to as big as your church can handle.

What do we need to get started?

A church kitchen, a volunteer coordinator (or coordinating team), and a willing heart.



Learn more:

Feeding The Children

First United Methodist Church
807 South Point Road, P. O. Box 748
Belmont, NC 28012
Phone: (704) 825-2106

or
Preston and Martha Taylor
(704) 825-7630

Feeding The Children

A local program to impact hungry children

“Whatever you do for one of the least of these, you do for Me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Hunger Does Not Discriminate

▶ FEEDING THE CHILDREN

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Feeding The Children

Since 2003, members of First United Methodist Church (Belmont, NC) have been providing lunches during holiday breaks for local children whose parents request the food.

Feeding The Children launched when just two members learned that large numbers of local children go hungry. Stunned and moved by compassion, the couple mobilized the entire congregation to act. During its first session

Feeding The Children served 60 children hot lunches. Today, **Feeding The Children** provides hot lunches for 300+ children during holiday breaks in Belmont alone and is operated solely by lay members.

Your church can feed children, too.

Feeding The Children: A Ready-Made Program that's Easy to Replicate

There are children right in your community who go hungry during winter and spring break. Your church can make a difference for these families by running your own **Feeding The Children** program. The team from FUMC will walk you and your congregation step-by-step through what you need to know about planning, recruiting volunteers, finding funds, engaging schools, registering children, buying and preparing food, arranging delivery routes, assembling lunches, and delivering food.

We Will Help You!

We are anxious to replicate this program in other churches. Children right in your community – maybe your own neighborhood – are hungry. You and your church can change that.

It's not hard. It just takes heart.

Why Should My Church Participate?

- **Need:** You meet an urgent need in your community.
- **Education:** You'll teach your congregation about local poverty.
- **Participation:** Your entire congregation can serve, from seniors to teenagers to very young children.
- **Flexibility:** Members can serve at times that are convenient.
- **Convenience.** Feeding The Children is a ready-made program and easily replicated in congregations.
- **Volunteerism.** You'll identify an opportunity for people in your community.
- **Recruiting:** Short-term commitments make it easy to recruit volunteers.
- **Teamwork:** A church-wide project builds a sense of mission and purpose.
- **Service:** God calls us to help those in need.

Ways Your Members Can Be Involved

- assemble lunches • deliver lunches • plan delivery routes
- give financially • shop for food • bake cookies
- cook • deliver and collect forms to school

*"FEEDING THE CHILDREN shows that ministry is not limited to, or dependent upon clergy."
Mark Andrews, former pastor, First UMC Belmont*

*"FEEDING THE CHILDREN helped our students to see the church in action. It made a big impact!"
Carla Mills, school counselor, Belmont, NC*

*"It's rewarding to see that FEEDING THE CHILDREN is so meaningful for the kids we serve. They looked forward to the meals each day — they were ready and waiting for us."
Judy Clason, volunteer
2004 Belmont Citizen of the Year*

DID YOU KNOW? Throughout the school year, Gaston County parents request meals for 58.40% enrolled students.