



2026 Summer Stats

25,939 Lunches Served

In 2026, “Now That’s What I’m Talking About!” Summer Lunch program began on Wednesday, May 27th. Our last day was Friday, August 28th.

During those thirteen and a half weeks we served 25,939 lunches. This is a record high since we started the program in 2019. In fact, we surpassed the 18,630 lunches we served during 2025. This is a 39% increase from the number of lunches we served since last year.

583 Children Representing 230 Families

While 583 children were registered for the summer lunch program representing 230 families. The number of children registered in 2026 increased by 38% from 2025. The number of families in 2026 increased by 44% from last year.

On an average day, during peak season, we served approximately 478 children compared to 355 children last year. Not every child received lunch every day. Some only received lunch on certain days of the week. Others only received lunches for a few weeks during the summer. Some working families only received lunches as they fit their schedule. Families who didn’t understand the time commitment of picking up lunch while also working removed themselves from receiving lunches for the kids. And there were 3 families without transportation that were registered but we were unable to assist.

These numbers do NOT include children who attended a program in Chagrin Falls Park (Bainbridge) that two of our volunteers are involved in. Some of the children were consistently attending the program without

bringing lunch. We sent our leftovers that had been frozen over to this program for 3 weeks. Our volunteers then thawed and reheated the food. It might not have been a well-rounded lunch, but it was a meal. This was approximately 180 meals we provided.

Berkshire School District – 149 Children representing 63 Families

○ Burton	36 children	17 families
○ Claridon	37 children	12 families
○ Montville	25 children	10 families
○ Thompson	33 children	16 families
○ Troy	18 children	8 families

Cardinal School District – 133 Children representing 52 Families

○ Huntsburg	41 children	11 families
○ Middlefield	82 children	38 families
○ Parkman	10 children	3 families

Chardon School District – 153 Children representing 56 Families

○ Chardon	58 children	22 families
○ Claridon	23 children	7 families
○ Hambden	39 children	15 families
○ Munson	23 children	7 families

West Geauga School District – 128 Children representing 49 Families

○ Chesterland	35 children	12 families
○ Newbury	85 children	33 families
○ Russell	8 children	4 families

Outside Geauga County – 20 Children representing 10 families

These 10 families consisted of a parent working in Geauga County and picking up on their lunch hour, working in Geauga County and their child(ren) were at Tiffany's Learning Center and families that lived over the Geauga County line and chose to drive to the nearest location to receive lunch.

199 Volunteers

“Now That’s What I’m Talking About!” – Summer Lunch, a Claridon Community Helps program is 100% volunteer driven. There are no paid employees.

156 volunteers donated 2,616 hours this summer on Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday mornings preparing and packing lunches. An additional 468 hours were spent on the program outside of Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning between the first day we started serving lunch and the last day.

At the end of the summer, 298 delivery routes were made possible by 43 volunteers including four businesses; Ronyak Bros., Solid Rock on Which We Stand, A Better Choice and Geauga Transit. These volunteers (6 of which also helped prepare lunch) gave 447 hours of their time and the cost associated with operating their vehicles to deliver lunch to the children.

In total, 199 volunteers gave 3,531 hours of time and talent this summer. Of these 199 volunteers, 138 were adults and 61 were students.

27 Delivery Locations – 28 Homes

Each day eight volunteer drivers delivered to multiple locations within the county. Some lunches were even delivered to the home of the child(ren) if the parent did not have transportation or would be at work and unable to pick up lunch at the delivery time. This was also contingent upon their home being on the route. Some families picked up their lunch at Claridon Congregational Church at noon time. Other families also picked up lunch at the church from an insulated cooler on the bench outside the door on their way home from work. The rest were delivered to the following locations where families met our drivers to gather the children’s lunches.

Burton:

- *Burton Library*
- *Tiffany’s Learning Center*

Chardon:

- *Chardon Christian Fellowship Church*

Chesterland:

- *Chesterland Park*

Claridon:

- Claridon Congregational Church
- Aquilla Village Pavilion

Hambden:

- Leaders Community House
- Hambden Elementary School
- Terrace Glen Estates

Huntsburg:

- Huntsburg Town Hall
- Highland Acres

Middlefield

- Middlefield Library
- Mineral Lake Park
- Cloverdale Estates
- Middlefield Properties
- Grove Manor Apartments
- Multi-Wing America
- All Around Child Care

Montville:

- Montville Community Center

Munson:

- Geauga County YMCA

Newbury:

- Veteran's Legacy Woods
- Kiwanis Lake Community Center
- Inca Aztec Self Storage
- Mailbox Station on Diane Drive

Thompson:

- Rustic Pines Mobile Home Park
- Thompson Church on the Square

Troy:

- Troy Community House

\$62,296.36 Total Expenses

Total expenses for "Now That's What I'm Talking About!" – Summer Lunch program does not include Claridon Community Helps monthly insurance, telephone, website, post office box and additional garbage pickup during the summer months. All expenses are paid from money received through donations. It is not funded by any government agencies.

Our total expenses this year are a 43% increase from 2025.

\$49,325.41 in Food Expenses

Our food expenses increased by 24% from last year. Each meal cost \$1.90. *This is only for the food.* This does not include the cost of the containers/bags we put the food in, etc.

Again this year, we were able to keep our meal cost down because New Mercies Church provided us with 10 cases of chicken. Great Lakes Growers provided us with 7 cases of lettuce each week so that we could provide fresh salads each Friday. Geauga County Public Library held a food drive in April for us.

This year we were able to work together with Great Lakes Cheese. They provided sliced cheese for the sandwiches and the cheese stick in the brown bag lunch. In 2025, we purchased sliced cheese and yogurt for the brown bag lunch. The cost for these two items last year was \$4,271.

\$12,971.05 in Non-Food Expenses

Our non-food expenses in 2026 included items such as food prep gloves, Ziploc bags, brown paper bags, serving spoons, delivery bags, bowls/lids for salad, tins for hot meals (even though University Hospital donated the tins, with the increase in children I didn't estimate asking for nearly enough) and our 3 large purchases including 2 single door commercial refrigerators and one single door commercial freezer.

The refrigerators and freezer cost \$7,387. The rest of the non-food expenses were \$5584.05. Comparing apples to apples, our non-food expenses, excluding the cost of the refrigerator and freezer, increased by 47% from 2025. Even after many, many non-food donations were purchased by donors from our wish list.

Claridon Congregational Church

“Now That’s What I’m Talking About!” Summer Lunch is a Claridon Community Helps program. Claridon Community Helps is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are a separate organization from Claridon Congregational Church, but one would never know it as we work so well together.

Not only does the Congregation welcome us with open arms, but they also support us in all our endeavors. For three months each summer we take over the lower level of the church as we use every room. They provide the electricity to run the refrigerators, freezers, ovens and yes there are multiple of these things. We run the air conditioning while many times the doors are opened and closed each morning which makes it not the most efficient.

1 Amazing Community

I say this often, yet I cannot say it often enough, we live in an amazing community. People freely share their time, talent and resources. Our community didn’t hesitate to open their wallets so that we could purchase the items we need to make the summer lunch program happen. Claridon Community Helps was able to offer “Now That’s What I’m Talking About!” – Summer Lunch program because of you! ***Together, we are making a difference!***

We couldn't have fed the children in Geauga County this past summer without your support! Thank you!

- Claridon Congregational Church**
- 199 Volunteers**
- Great Lakes Cheese**
- University Hospital – Geauga**
- Great Lakes Growers**

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Anne & Sid Clouser | - Edward Babcock |
| - Arlene Strauss | - Ellen-McDougall-Peska |
| - Arthur & Taylor Rice | - Emma MaloneyPat Pfouts |
| - Barb Inderlied | - Geauga Aerie #2261 |
| - Barb Townsend | Fraternal Order of Eagles |
| - Barbara Mullally | - Geauga Auxiliary Post #2261 |
| - Bentronix Corp. | - Geauga County Maple |
| - Berkshire Athletic Boosters | Festival |
| - Betsy Griffin | - Geauga Mechanical |
| - Bev McClelland | - Girl Scout Troop #70594 |
| - Blasko & Cummins | - Girl Scout Troop #70602 |
| - Bonnie & Tracy Jemison | - Guido's Pizza Haven |
| - Bridge Falls | - Hambden Building Supply |
| - Buckeye Chocolate | - Heinens - Chardon |
| - Burr Funeral Home | - Heritage Meats |
| - Carolyn Kovac | - Hershey Montessori School |
| - Chardon Rotary Foundation | - Hildred Armstrong |
| - Cindy Robinson | - Howard Bates |
| - Cindy Taylor | - Jacki Bagheri |
| - Community Church of | - Jane Crane |
| Chesterland | - Jane Evely |
| - Connie Huston | - Jeannine Soltis |
| - Countryside Truck Service | - Jenny Deren |
| - Daniell Queen | - Joan Lawrence |
| - Dave & Barb Partington | - JoAnn Podany |
| - Dave & Lois Tiber | - Jodi Miller |
| - Dave & MaryEllen Hoffman | - Joe Pokorny |
| - Dawn & Mike Farrell | - Joey's Italian Grille |
| - Dawn Tolchhinsky | - John Miller |
| - Debbie & Amy Scott | - Judy Starr |
| - Denise Ochterski | - Julie Cole |
| - Diane Long | - Julie Ziemak |
| - Diane Pierce | - Junction Auto |
| - Dollar General Thompson, | - Kaitlyn cooper |
| Patrons | - Kala Noce |
| - Donna Vaccariello | - Karen Whiting |

- Kathleen Johnson
- Kathleen McCarthy
- Kathleen Osaben
- Kathy Carpenter
- Kathy Manning
- Kathy Pinkava
- Kathy Starr
- Keith & Linda Newberry
- Ken & Betty Landrus
- Kiwanis Club of West Geauga
- KT's Custom Logo
- Kurtz Salvage
- Laura Goyanes
- Laura Lawrence
- Leanne Sidley – Marvelous Mouse Travels
- Linda Angstrom
- Lisa Ruple
- Lisa Wilson
- Lori & John Riha
- Lydia & Dave McKenzie
- Mary Bramsted
- Mary Lou Hope
- Maureen Gordon
- Melzer Golf Outing
- Michelle May
- Middlefield Original Cheese Co-Op
- MUMS Group
- Nan Norton
- Nancy Bihary
- Nancy Carlson
- Nancy Wright
- Natalie Cooper
- Nauvoo Family market
- Pam Austin
- Patricia Dardis
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Pilgrim Christian Church
- Roger Mezak
- Ron & Debbie Barak
- Ronyak Raving
- Rotary Club of Burton/Middlefield
- Rothenbuhler Family Foundation
- Shelly Pokorny
- Skip & Cindy Boehnlein
- Solid Rock on Which We Stand
- South Side Discount Groceries
- St. Patrick Parish
- Stacy Heatwole
- Susan Vokoun
- Thalia Hutter
- The J L Taylor Co.
- Tim & Terry Trask
- Time Frank Septic Cleaning
- Trinity Veterinary Hospital
- Wendy White
- William Grattino
- Yangtzee Restaurant
- And the people I missed