



2025 Summer Stats

18,630 Lunches Served

Our twelve weeks of serving lunches began on Wednesday, May 28. Our last day was Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

During those twelve weeks we served 18,630 lunches. This is a record high since we started the program in 2019. In fact, we surpassed the 18,136 lunches we served during 2020 in 25 weeks. This is a 29% increase from the number of lunches we served in 2024.

424 Children Representing 160 Families

While 424 children were registered for the summer lunch program representing 160 families. The number of children registered in 2025 increased by 8% from 2024. The number of families in 2024 increased by 21% from last year.

On an average day we served approximately 355 children compared to 273 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. Working families only received lunches as it fit their schedule. There were families with transportation issues or medical issues. And there were 3 families that lived outside of our delivery area that were registered but we were unable to assist.

- 36 children were from Burton
- 6 children were from Chagrin Falls
- 60 children were from Chardon

- 21 children were from Chesterland
- 10 children were from Claridon – Chardon School District
- 29 children were from Claridon – Berkshire School District
- 1 child was from Garrettsville
- 32 children were from Hambden
- 1 child from Hiram
- 28 children were from Huntsburg
- 48 children were from Middlefield
- 13 children were from Montville
- 25 children were from Munson
- 41 children were from Newbury
- 22 children were from Parkman
- 7 child was from Russell
- 25 children were from Thompson
- 16 children were from Troy
- 3 children were from Windsor

Ages

All children in school and younger were able to participate in our lunch program. The ages of our registered children were as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| - 7 – age 1 | - 35 – age 10 |
| - 19 – age 2 | - 26 – age 11 |
| - 29 – age 3 | - 27 – age 12 |
| - 35 – age 4 | - 23 – age 13 |
| - 21 – age 5 | - 20 – age 14 |
| - 29 – age 6 | - 25 – age 15 |
| - 32 – age 7 | - 13 – age 16 |
| - 24 – age 8 | - 14 – age 17 |
| - 42 – age 9 | - 3 – age 18 |

155 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.

133 volunteers donated 2,810 hours this summer on Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday mornings preparing and packing lunches. An additional 186 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, 274 delivery routes were made possible by 27 volunteers and three businesses; Ronyak Bros., Solid Rock on Which We Stand and MSI Choices. These volunteers (5 of which also helped prepare lunch) gave 480 hours of their time and the cost of operating their vehicles to deliver lunch to the children.

In total 155 volunteers gave 3,221 hours of their time and talent this summer. Of these 155 volunteers, 57 were adults and 98 were students.

25 Delivery Locations – 34 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*
- *St. Mary's Church*
- *Chardon Square Auto*

Chesterland:

- *Chesterland Park*

Claridon:

- *Claridon Congregational Church*
- *Headwaters Park*

Hambden:

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

Huntsburg:

- *Huntsburg Town Hall*
- *Highland Acres*

Middlefield

- *Middlefield Library*
- *Mineral Lake Park*
- *Cloverdale Estates*

Montville:

- *Montville Community Center*

Munson:

- *Scenic River Retreat*

Newbury:

- *St. Helen Church*
- *Inca Aztec Self Storage*
- *Mailbox Station on Diane Drive*

Parkman:

- *Parkman Congregational Church*

Thompson:

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

Troy:

- *Troy Community House*

\$43,681.05 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, \$43,681.05, an increase of \$12,243.73 from last year or 39%.

Our cost per homemade lunch during the summer of 2025 was \$2.34.

\$39,774.84 in Food Expenses

This is an increase of \$12,348.04 from last year. The cost of food increased by a higher percentage rate than the number of children we provided lunch for increased.

Again this year, New Mercies Church provided us with 10 cases of chicken. Great Lakes Growers provided us with 5 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. Also, Geauga County Public Schools held a food drive for our benefit.

\$3809.60 in Non-Food Expenses

Our Non-Food expenses decreased by \$200.92 from last year. We have purchased the core cooking supplies that we use daily and they didn't need to be replaced this year. Many people donated items from our wish list so that we didn't have to purchase them. Again this year, University Hospitals provided the containers we put the hot lunch in each day.

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. And when we were not going to have enough money to finish the season, the parishioners didn't hesitate to open their wallets.

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!***

***Thank
You!***

- Claridon Congregational Church
- 155 Volunteers
- University Hospital – Geauga
- Great Lakes Growers
- Adam & Becca Fisher
- Aggie Sojka
- Amanda Fleck
- Amanda Rickelman
- Ann Turpin
- Anne & Sid Clouser
- Anonymous Donors
- Arlene Strauss
- Arthur & Taylor Rice
- Barb & Dave Partington
- Barb Stocker
- Barb Townsend
- Beth & Jim Croup
- Betty & Barb Wittlinger
- Blasko & Cummins Insurance
- Bonnie Thomas
- Brad White
- Buckeye Chocolate
- Bud & Alice Armstrong
- Burton Congregational Church
- Burton Middlefield Rotary
- Chardon Square Collision
- Chardon VFW Post #6519
- Charles & Brenda Moosbrugger
- Cindy Robinson
- Claudia Crookshanks
- Claudia Toth
- Community Church of Chesterland
- Connie Huston
- Countryside Truck Service
- Danielle Queen
- Dave & MaryEllen Hoffman
- Dave Hanna
- Dawn Farrell
- Debbie Feckanin
- Debbie Scott
- Deborah Wilmot
- Dennis & LuAnn Burger
- Devin Vandermaas
- Diane & Denny Kellogg
- Diane Bond
- Diane Long
- Donna Temple
- Donna Vaccariello
- Doug & Carolyn Price
- Ed & Pam Koziol

- Ellen & Dean Peska
- Emily Grantham
- Emma Maloney
- Gary & Rosemary Shaffer
- Geauga County Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Geauga County Maple Festival
- Geauga Credit Union
- Geauga Growth Partnership
- Geauga Hunger Task Force
- Geauga Mechanical
- Hambden Tire
- Hildred Armstrong
- His Daughter
- Huntsburg Grange #2541
- Jackie Brockway
- Jacqueline Bagheri
- Jane Crane Maureen Fry
- Jeannine & Gregg Soltis
- Jenni Deren
- Jennifer Cunningham
- Jennifer Toothman
- Jerry Jordak
- Joan Lawrence
- Joann Podany
- JoAnna Santelli
- John Miller
- Johnson Family
- Junction Auto Sales
- Kathleen Johnson
- Kathleen Johnson
- Kathy Pinkava
- Ken & Betty Landrus
- Kristen Bougher Kish
- Kristine Olsen
- Laura Goyanes
- Leanne Sidley
- Leslie Smetana
- Linda & Keith Newberry
- Lisa Rhamy
- Lisa Slattery
- Lisa Wilson
- Lois Tiber
- Lucy Canfield
- Lydia & Dave McKenzie
- Mark Bandish
- MaryBeth O'Neill
- Matthew Kross
- Maureen Gordon
- Melissa McGhee
- Michelle Boytano
- Middlefield Plastic
- Missy Noble
- Molten Metal Equipment Innovations
- Montville Township
- Nancy Bihary
- Nancy Carlson
- Nancy Wright
- Nancy Wright
- New Testament Baptist Church
- P & S Dock Inc
- Pam Austin
- Pat Pfouts
- Patrick & Kathy Dowd
- Patterson Fruit Farm
- RMS Empower Inc
- Rodina Farms
- Roger Mezak
- Ronyak Paving
- Sarah Foley
- Sharon Joles
- Skip & Cindy Boehnlein
- Solid Rock on Which We Stand
- St. Patrick Parish
- Steve & Catherine Wolcott
- Sue West
- Susan Vokoun
- Tamera Gould
- Taylor Plumbing Contractors
- Tim Doerr Construction
- Tim Hess Agency
- Wendy White
- William Grattino
- And the people I missed