



San Diego Unified  
School District



## Media Advisory

Contact: Chris Carter  
619-857-2314  
ccarter@sandiegofoodbank.org  
[www.sandiegofoodbank.org](http://www.sandiegofoodbank.org)

### **Free summer lunch program for low-income kids combines with Food Bank food distribution & Food Stamp clinic**

***Major kick-off BBQ with SD Charger Matt Wilhelm & Hip Hop Station Z90.3***

**What:** The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) will launch this summer's federally funded summer lunch program, "the Summer Fun Café," targeting low-income students who do not receive free school meals during their summer vacation.

This year, the school district is partnering with the San Diego Food Bank who will provide a free food distribution to parents at all 21 local parks; and its team of volunteers will pre-screen attendees for Food Stamps.

The Food Bank will also host a "recession resource fair" with other San Diego non-profits at the kick off event providing information on services including: emergency shelter and housing assistance, low-cost utility programs, low-cost healthcare, free banking and much more.

**When:** Kick-off BBQ, June 24, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Skyline Hills Community Park, 8285 Skyline Dr., SD 92114

**Who:** San Diego Chargers player Matt Wilhelm; an estimated 1,000+ children with parents; the San Diego Food Bank; non-profit organizations; radio station Z90.3

**Why:** The San Diego Unified School District provides meals for over 77,000 students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals during the school year, but many students and parents are unaware of the summer lunch program in local parks. The kick-off BBQ event aims to increase awareness of this underutilized free summer lunch & snack program.

**Editors notes:**

**About the SDUFD's Summer Fun Café:**

The Summer Fun Café is a program designed to bridge the “nutrition gap” during the summer when school is out and school meals are not available. It provides free lunches and snacks to children ages 2-18 in neighborhoods where more than 50% of the students qualify for free and reduced-price meals at their schools. There is no enrollment, no paperwork and no income qualifications required to participate.

Lunches and snacks are prepared and delivered to 21 community parks through a partnership with the City of San Diego Department of Park and Recreation.

In addition, the Summer Fun Café will be located at several SDUSD schools and at MCAS Miramar.

**About the kick-off BBQ:**

The BBQ kickoff event is designed to bring community-wide visibility to this program which is so vital for low-income children. The economic crisis has severely strained families and we want to get the message out about how easy it is to access nutritious free meals during the summer.

This year the San Diego Food Bank will be at the kickoff event to distribute free bags of fruits and vegetables and assist interested people in pre-screening for Food Stamps.

The kickoff event will feature:

- San Diego Charger Matt Wilhelm will be event Master of Ceremonies
- Free BBQ for children and their parents (parent meals underwritten by SDG&E)
- San Diego Food Bank will distribute free bags of fruits and vegetables
- San Diego Food Bank will pre-screen interested people for Food Stamps
- Z90.3 Radio station will play music

- SDFB's Community Care Project partners offering information about a variety of social services to low income families
- Network for a Healthy California will hold a nutrition decathlon with lots of prizes
- Inflatable jumper
- Craft tables

**About the San Diego Food Bank's Community Cares Project:**

The Community Cares Project is an initiative of the San Diego Food Bank that combines food distributions with a "one-stop-shop" resource fair where people in need can receive information and assistance signing up for a range of programs including Food Stamps, housing assistance, employment training, low-cost utilities, services for the elderly and disabled, medical care, and much more.

**For more information:**

Details of locations and serving times are on the SDUSD web site at [www.sandi.net/food](http://www.sandi.net/food)

Contact Joanne Tucker, Food Services Marketing Coordinator at 858 627 7316 or

[jtucker@sandi.net](mailto:jtucker@sandi.net)

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