

MEDIA ALERT



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Food for thought: CASE for Kids afterschool students gain life lessons from volunteering at food bank

When several students threw their sandwiches away days in succession in their summer enrichment program, it was food for thought for their afterschool coordinators.

What: Houston Food Bank Afterschool Community

Who: 100 students and 35 parents from local summer enrichment programs

When: June 27, 9 a.m.-noon

Where: Houston Food Bank, 535 Portwall Street, Houston, TX

Etc: Contact Carol Vaughn, 281-660-9205, cvaughn@hcde-texas.org

“We decided that we could change a negative into a positive by bringing students together with their parents to give back to people who are homeless or needy,” said Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director for the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, a division of Harris County Department of Education.

The students and some of their parents will volunteer at the Houston Food Bank on Monday, June 27 from 9 a.m.-noon. The goal of the event is to raise awareness about the hunger plight which many Houstonians face each day and to educate the youth about helping the needy.

Students are enrolled in summer enrichment programs. Schools participating include Frances Elementary, Aldine ISD; Spring Forest Middle School, Spring Branch ISD; Sharpstown International, Houston ISD; and South Houston Elementary, Pasadena ISD. About 100 students and 35 parents will be volunteering at the Houston Food Bank, 535 Portwall Street in Houston, Texas.

CASE for Kids, a division of Harris County Department of Education, provides resources, trainings and funding for students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities and community centers throughout Harris County. Students are enrolled in CASE for Kids programs through Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) 21st Century, administered by the Texas Education Agency.

About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids: CASE for Kids, formerly the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, was launched by Harris County Department of Education in 1999. CASE for Kids is an after-school intermediary which leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit approximately 12,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Go to www.afterschoolzone.org for information.

About Harris County Department of Education (HCDE): Serving students, teachers, schools and communities throughout Harris County, HCDE is a local governmental organization providing value for school districts while supporting educational opportunity. Partnering with Harris County school districts, HCDE maximizes local resources and respond to the needs of locally elected school boards and education leaders. HCDE services include school-based therapy for students, afterschool programs, Head Start, educator training, adult education and programs to promote safe schools. To learn more about how your county department of education can help you: www.hcde-texas.org .

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