



For More Information
Contact: Elizabeth Hughes
CAM Executive Director
417-334-1157
director@christianactionministries.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Summer Hungriest Time of Year for Many Taney County Children

Summer may be the hungriest time of year for many area children. Consider this: the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that *11,306 youth ages 0-18 live at or below poverty level in Taney County*. Nearly 64 percent (or 4,689 kids) of Taney County students are enrolled in the free or reduced school lunch program. So, what happens during summer when the breakfast and lunch they counted on at school go away?

“A significant food void is created when children are out of school during the summer months,” said Elizabeth Hughes, executive director of Christian Action Ministries (CAM), which operates the food pantries and outreach in Taney County. “CAM wants to ensure that gap is filled for those children this summer, so we’ve launched the Summer Hunger Relief for Taney County Children initiative.”

The Summer Hunger Relief project will provide children of Taney County facing food insecurity with 4 days’ worth of food per month (12 days’ worth total over summer break) when they are out of school, not receiving school lunches or help through the backpack program. Last year during summer break (May 15-August 15), 2,857 children received 4 days’ worth of food through CAM.

“We believe that we can do better, so we set a goal to reach at least 3,500 kids who may be facing food insecurity this summer,” Hughes explained. “To make sure families in need know about supplemental food help through CAM, every school in Taney County, the Gift of Hope backpack program, and the Boys and Girls Club agreed to share our informational flyer with students.”

CAM invites all Taney County residents to get involved with this effort.

“Summer hunger is a very real issue for our Taney County kids, and it will take all of us working together to fill this gap,” Hughes said. “Getting involved in this effort is simple—you can help us by spreading the word to families you know that might need food help over the summer.”

CAM has two pantry locations. The Branson Pantry (located at 610 S. Sixth St., Ste 102) is open Monday-Friday 12-3 p.m. CAM’s Forsyth Pantry (located at 10726 State Highway 76 Ste E) is open Tuesday-Thursday 10-2 p.m.

On the first Wednesday of every month, CAM operates a mobile outreach at Bradleyville, Protem and Cedarcreek. Folks needing assistance through the mobile outreach should call (417) 251-0260 to find out exact distribution locations and times.

Food assistance is reserved for individuals and families facing financial hardship or crisis. To receive consideration for assistance, individuals must provide their driver's license, proof of physical address and income information when they come to either pantry or to the mobile outreach.

If you want to help further, host a food drive or donate financially. CAM can feed one person for four days for only \$7 and a family of four for only \$28.

Go to www.christianactionministries.org or call 417-334-1157 to learn more or donate.