

This is the second installment of our series looking behind the scenes of the Donation Station, investigating where all the local food from the Athens Farmers Market and area community gardeners goes when it is distributed to area pantries and social service agencies. Under the microscope this time is Athens County Children Services' Peanut Butter & Jelly Project.

As stated on the ACCS website, "Trimble, Coolville, Amesville, The Plains, and Chauncey Elementary Schools are among the poorest in the state. Over 65% of the students in these districts qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. During the summer months, these children lose this much-needed subsidy. The Peanut Butter & Jelly Project aims to provide children with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in the Trimble, Federal Hocking, and Athens City schools that are served by Athens County Children Services' School Outreach Workers."

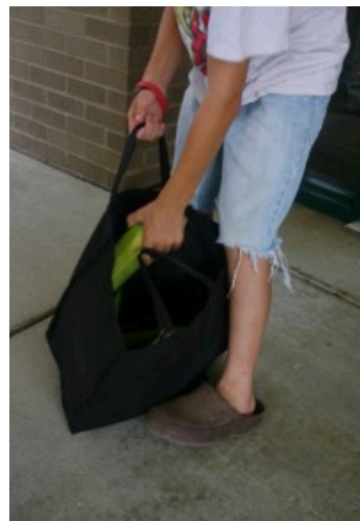


This year, Donation Station fresh local foods were available to the families as well. *Over the course of the summer, families were served over 500 times, providing food for over 1600 children in Athens County!*

I tagged along with Diane Stock, School Outreach Worker at The Plains Elementary, during PB & J distribution one Friday recently. Parents and their children came in cars, on foot and on bicycle to receive much needed healthy food to help their families get through the summer.

The children were especially excited to see fresh peaches and apples, an instant snack.

Parents put together bags of produce, choosing corn, potatoes, summer squash and tomatoes. *"All this will be eaten up within a week, my kids love vegetables," stated one mother as she loaded up her car.*



Diane chatted with the families about services available for



getting school supplies and upcoming events for kids. The atmosphere was gleeful as everyone rummaged through the food, Diane offering chilled Snowville Creamery milk from coolers, and children running around under foot. One family had their dog tag along, and we all learned that even canines have a taste for fresh local food!

The Donation Station and Athens County Children Services make a great team, helping combat hunger and building community through healthy local food, one cherry tomato at a time!