Library joins Children’s Hunger Alliance to provide afterschool snacks for students

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) is once again partnering with Children’s Hunger Alliance to provide afterschool snacks to children ages 1-18 at several CML locations. This marks the fifth year of the partnership. In 2015, CML and Children’s Hunger Alliance piloted the program at CML’s Hilltop and Karl Road branches. The service has since expanded and now includes the following CML locations:

- **Driving Park Branch** | Monday-Friday, 3:45-4:15 p.m., Saturday, 3:00-3:30 p.m.
- **Franklinton Branch** | Monday-Saturday, 4:00-4:30 p.m.
- **Hilltop Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4:15-4:45 p.m., Saturday, 2:15-2:45 p.m.
- **Karl Road Branch** | Monday-Friday, 3:45-4:30 p.m., Saturday, 2:00-2:30 p.m.
- **Linden Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4:45-5 p.m., Saturday, 2:15-2:45 p.m.
- **Livingston Branch** | Monday-Friday, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Saturday, 2:30-3:00 p.m.
- **Main Library** | Monday-Friday, 4-4:30 p.m., Saturday, 2:15-2:45 p.m.
- **Martin Luther King Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4-4:30 p.m., Saturday, 12:00-12:30 p.m.
- **Northern Lights Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4:15-4:45 p.m., Saturday, 3:15-3:45 p.m.
- **Parsons Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4-4:30 p.m., Saturday, 3:00-3:30 p.m.
- **Reynoldsburg Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4:30-5 p.m., Saturday, 3:00-3:30 p.m.
- **Shepard Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4:15-4:45 p.m., Saturday, 2:15-2:45 p.m.
- **South High Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4:00-4:30 p.m., Saturday, 2:30-3:00 p.m.
- **Southeast Branch** | Monday-Friday, 3:45-4:15 p.m., Saturday, 2:00-2:30 p.m.
- **Whitehall Branch** | Monday-Friday, 4-4:30 p.m., Saturday, 3:00-3:30 p.m.

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* The Franklinton and Livingston branches will close for approximately a month for renovations beginning Sunday, Oct. 27.

These locations self-selected for the program based on student need. A typical super-snack provided by Children’s Hunger Alliance consists of a fruit, vegetable, protein, grain and milk.

“We’re in the business of helping students succeed and research has shown that they are better able to focus on their schoolwork after they’ve eaten,” said CML CEO Patrick Losinski. “Since so many students utilize our Homework Help Centers after school, we see this partnership as an impactful way to help children concentrate and learn.”

“We know that more than 20 percent of children in Franklin County live in food-insecure homes where they are not sure about an afterschool snack or dinner each night,” said Judy Mobley, President and CEO of Children’s Hunger Alliance. "We help provide healthy meals and snacks to over 100 afterschool programs in central Ohio so that children can concentrate on their homework and have the energy to participate in afterschool activities. We appreciate the partnership with Columbus Metropolitan Library to help us reach more children and provide them with a healthy meal.”

Founded in 1970, Children’s Hunger Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger by improving access to food for the more than 500,000 food-insecure children in Ohio. Through their work, Children’s Hunger Alliance provides healthy meals to hungry children, advocates for the welfare of Ohio’s youngest citizens and teaches nutrition and physical education to those they serve.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library’s Strategic Plan supports the vision of “a thriving community where wisdom prevails,” which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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