Library partners with Children’s Hunger Alliance to offer after-school snacks at pilot branches

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) is partnering with the Children’s Hunger Alliance (CHA) to provide free snacks to students who often arrive hungry to the library after school each day.

CML began providing the snacks to K-12 students in the Homework Help Centers of its Karl Road and Hilltop branches on Monday, Oct. 19 and will continue the service through the school year. At that time, additional consideration will be given to whether to continue or expand the program throughout the library system.

“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 them concentrate and learn.”

The state-subsidized snacks provided by CHA typically consist of a fruit or vegetable and yogurt or milk. They are provided to K-12 students from 3-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Karl Road Branch and from 4-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Hilltop Branch.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio for 142 years. With its Main Library and 21 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and the Ready to Read Corps. 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 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. In 2014, Columbus Metropolitan Library became the only large public library in the country to be rated a 5-Star Library for all seven years of Library Journal’s industry standards rating program.

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