



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs to Recognize KCS Cafeteria Workers

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Food City will recognize public school cafeteria staff as Knox County Schools celebrates National School Lunch Week, Oct. 26-30.

During this week, the mayor and members of his staff will distribute “thank you” cards and LifeSavers candies to let cafeteria workers know what life savers they are for the community and its children every day.

“A healthy meal is one of the most important building blocks in the foundation of a student’s successful school day, said Mayor Jacobs. “I am grateful for the work our cafeteria workers do and I’m so glad we could take time to show them our appreciation.”

Typically celebrated Oct. 12-16, which was during Fall Break, National School Lunch Week—created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962—promotes the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and the impact it has inside and outside the classroom.

According to the School Nutrition Association, “The COVID-19 pandemic has without a doubt shown just how incredibly important school meals are for students and their families.”

This is abundantly clear in Knox County, as the almost 500 cafeteria staff and members of Knox County Schools Food and Nutrition Services Department distributed 834,388 total meals—including 31,742 meals the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee helped with—during the emergency period that began when schools closed in the Spring and lasted until the start of the summer program. 200,000 meals—and an additional 30,000 snacks—were provided during the summer period.

“Food insecurity is something no child should ever have to worry about,” said Mayor Jacobs. “Knox County Schools cafeteria staff help provide a healthy meal and a smiling face to students during the school day and they continued to do that under much more difficult circumstances when schools originally closed due to COVID-19.”

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