

## Summer books are a big success

For the second year in a row, the SummerFood program has included efforts to strengthen childhood literacy through the distribution of free age-appropriate books. The program, which was piloted at 23 sites in 2015 was expanded to 84 sites this year.

The books were received through donations collected during a drive in the spring that included the participation of Allegheny County employees, the Children’s Museum, the North Hills AAUW, and Deloitte. Generous donations were also provided by the Pajama Program which gave 3500 activity books, and Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI) which gave 1,000 new books and provided volunteers to help distribute them at a few of the sites.

“The response from the sites has been fantastic, and the children absolutely love the books,” said Robert Rebholz, Administrator, Bureau of Family & Community Services, who oversees the SummerFood program.

This year’s SummerFood program also included an expanded and healthier food menu, with hot and cold options and more varieties of fruits, vegetables and juices.

“We are always looking for new ways to expand the program and reach more kids,” said Robert. “Whether it’s the option of a hot meal or the opportunity to get a new book, we’re going to keep looking for ways to get kids to come out.”



Activity books provided by Pajama Program, were an especially big hit.