



JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER

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In this newsletter - first NEWS/UPDATES, then UPCOMING EVENTS, NATIONAL HEADLINES, and finally, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!

NEWS/UPDATES

D.C. Farm to School Network will be at Arcadia starting June 1st

The Network is excited to move from the Capital Area Food Bank to the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture starting June 1. Keep your eyes out for a press release, as well as exciting programs and services for the year to come!

D.C. Farm to School Network's Strawberries & Salad Greens Day on May 25th "A Huge Success"!

On May 25th, school meals across Washington, DC featured fresh, local strawberries and salad greens, and "Where Food Comes From" educational tables were coordinated in 32 school cafeterias! Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors that made the event happen. Read more on [Better D.C. School Food](#), the [Examiner](#) and the garden blog of [Thompson Elementary!](#)

Get involved with the DCPS Food Service Family & Friends Advisory Committee

DCPS Food Service is looking to engage the community on food issues by forming a standing committee of DCPS family members and/or friends to provide feedback on programming and to increase participation in school food programs. This committee will work in coordination with the (soon to be formed) Student Advisory Board and DCPS Food Service staff. Members will serve one year terms and will be expected to commit approximately 10 hours of work per month toward the committee. Apply [HERE](#).

Help Kick Start the Watkins Elementary School Teaching Kitchen Watkins Elementary is turning their science lab into a Teaching Kitchen! Watkins has a program called FoodPrints which integrates their edible garden into weekly classroom lessons that inspire and educate our students and their families about the importance of eating fresh, simple, nutritious food. They have a curriculum, students, a teacher, a beautiful vegetable garden and gardener, but they need a kitchen! Learn more and donate [here](#).

What's for Lunch? Students Combine Sociology and Service in Dean's Seminar at GW

At GWU's Columbian College, Associate Professor of Sociology (and DCPS parent) Ivy Ken served up a new Dean's Seminar designed to immerse students in the sociological aspects of the obesity epidemic and take them to the frontlines, i.e., the public school lunch room. Click [here](#) to read more about Professor Ken's work, including her involvement with the D.C. Farm to School Network!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1-13 - D.C. Jazz Festival

The D.C. Farm to School Network will have a table at the Jazz on the Mall event on Sunday June 12 from 1-7pm. This will be family-friendly free live jazz event on the National Mall at the Sylvan Theatre (15th and Independence).

June 6 - Book release - FAIR FOOD: Growing A Healthy, Sustainable Food System For All Join

author Dr. Oran Hesterman at 7pm on June 6 at Politics and Prose for a [discussion of his new book](#). Much of his message about the urgent need for a healthier and more equitable food system applies to Washington, DC. Oran provides an enlightening guide to changing not only what we eat, but argues that the U.S. food system is in crisis and a complete overhaul is needed in how our food is grown, packaged, delivered and sold.

June 14 webinar - Farm to School innovations in the Mid-Atlantic region

The National Farm to School Network is hosting a "[Lunch Bites](#)" series of 20-minute webinars on the second Tuesday of every month at **1pm**. June's webinar will focus on Farm to School innovations in the Mid-Atlantic region and provide basic information that can be applied to your own community. Click [here](#) to register.

July 9-16 - Eat Local First DC campaign Eat Local First DC campaign is a local food campaign created by Think Local First DC beginning with a week-long celebration of local food in the DC area. The focus of the week will be on local farms, local restaurants and the organizations and people that are making locally-grown food more accessible in the DC community. Click [here](#) to contribute and learn more!

NATIONAL HEADLINES

ACTION NEEDED: Help Us Protect SNAP (Food Stamps)

Join more than 1,500 national, state, and community-based organizations on a [sign-on letter](#) that opposes structural changes and budget cuts to SNAP. Last month, the House of Representatives voted in favor of a Budget Resolution to cut SNAP funding by \$127 billion over ten years, and make drastic changes and cuts to many other safety net programs. For more information about the budget proposal, click [here](#).

Department of Education Announces "Green Ribbon Schools" Program

The Green Ribbon Schools program will recognize schools that are creating healthy and sustainable learning environments and teaching environmental literacy. The U.S. Department of Education will work with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. EPA to administer the award. Application will be released later this year, and the winners will be announced next year.

USDA Kicks Off Recipe Judging in Healthy Kids Competition

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack recently announced the start of the judging period in First Lady Michelle Obama's Recipes for Healthy Kids competition. 15 recipes were chosen to move forward in the competition from schools in 11 states. For details and to vote on your favorite recipe, go [here](#).

New report from CDC Check out "The Children's Food Environment State Indicator Report" [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DC Social Innovation Project announces grant opportunities through Community Lab

Community Lab offers a way for neighborhood associations, schools, and community groups to implement a high-impact, small-scale project to improve a community. DCSIP provides funding of up to \$1,500 and works with the recipient organization on the implementation and evaluation of the initiative. More info [here](#).

Tom's of Maine Announces "50 States for Good" Program to Honor Nonprofit Organizations

Tom's of Maine has launched its annual "50 States for Good" program, which seeks to support community nonprofit organizations in completing volunteer-driven projects. Any qualifying 501(c)(3) in good standing with an organizational operating budget under \$2 million is eligible to apply. Organizations must work on projects, with the help of community volunteers, that relate to "environmental goodness, healthy human goodness, or animal goodness." Deadline is June 21. Click [here](#) for more info!