

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Camp Susan Curtis to serve 23,000 free meals to Maine youth**

**PORTLAND, Maine** (April 2019) – Nearly 500 economically disadvantaged Maine youth will receive breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack while at Camp Susan Curtis (CSC) this summer, totalling over 23,000 free meals during the camp’s season. As a USDA Summer Food Service Program, CSC staff are qualified to deliver quality meals, which are served family style to camp participants.

“The free meal program is a critical support for our kids and the Food Service Program helps us use nutritional education to develop the long-term health and well-being of participants,” said Terri Mulks, CSC’s Camp Director. “Food insecurity is present in the lives of all the youth we serve, so providing free meals with this program is one less challenge they have to face daily.”

The youth development programs at Camp Susan Curtis teach life skills and character development to economically disadvantaged Maine youth in a summer camp setting in Stoneham, Maine. Each year the camp serves approximately 500 youth, with every child sponsored through donations. CSC programs receive no state or federal funding beyond USDA reimbursement as a Summer Food Service Program.

Building on a successful partnership in 2018, all campers will once again go home with a weekend meal from Good Shepherd Food Bank. The Food Mobile will be present at Camp Susan Curtis on check out days and food will be packaged for campers who take the bus to return to their home communities. “We are so grateful for this partnership because it helps us address a need expressed by our families around food insecurity.” In addition to a bag of food, campers receive all the ingredients and a recipe from Cooking Matters for a delicious and healthy Bean Salsa.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the Program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

If any participant family wishes to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, call (866) 632-9992 to request a form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form emailed to: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) or sent to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA at (800) 877- 8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.]

### **About the Susan L. Curtis Foundation**

*Since 1974, the programs of the Susan L. Curtis Foundation at Camp Susan Curtis(CSC) have taught critical life skills and character development to over 18,000 economically disadvantaged Maine youth from grades 3 through 12. Referred by their schools all over the state, CSC youth return year after year with opportunities to reconnect and learn. CSC’s award-winning programs are fully sponsored through fundraising and are highly impactful: 99% of long-term, leadership participants graduate from high school and more than 8 out of 10 go on to some form of post-secondary education. CSC’s youth development programs are operated by the Susan L. Curtis Charitable Foundation with administrative offices located in Portland. For more information, please visit <http://www.susancurtis.org/>.*