

Summer Meals Program & CAP4Kids

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COMMUNITY PARTNER

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children has been a leader in pediatric care since 1875. It offers nationally recognized programs and pediatric specialists who provide exceptional care to the greater Philadelphia community. The mission of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is to provide quality services in a caring, progressive environment. Following that mission, St. Christopher's partners with the Nutritional Development Services (NDS) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. NDS has served the community's food needs for over 45 years, partnering with both Catholic and non-Catholic programs to provide millions of meals each year to combat hunger in the community. The Children's Advocacy Project of Philadelphia, CAP4Kids, developed by Dr. Daniel Taylor, connects healthcare workers, social workers, child advocates, and families with community resources to address the social influences on health. The website contains a variety of resources ranging from after-school programs and financial assistance to legal help and more, all of which aim to decrease barriers to achieving healthy outcomes.

Websites: www.towerhealth.org/locations/st-christophers-hospital-children
www.nutritionaldevelopmentservices.org
www.cap4kids.org/philadelphia

BACKGROUND

- 1875: St. Christopher's Hospital for children was founded by Dr. William Bennet as a charitable ambulatory pediatric clinic
- 1890: Main hospital is completed raising number of bed to 43
- 1970-72: First hospital in the U.S. to establish tracheotomy unit for infants & children, and in 72' the first pediatric kidney transplant in the Delaware valley
- 1977: NDS started its summer meals program providing meals to 42 sites
- 2005: Children's Advocacy Project (CAP4Kids) community resource website is developed
- 2014: The Center for the Urban Child walk-in clinic opens which increases preventative care
- 2019: St. Christopher's Hospital was purchased through a partnership of Drexel University and Tower Health, expanding care throughout Greater Philadelphia

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

The Bridging the Gaps student intern was given two main tasks: distribute meals through the Summer Meal Program and assure the quality of the CAP4Kids Philadelphia website. The Summer Meals Program's goal is to distribute healthy lunches to children and teenagers in order to address the food insecurity that families can face when school lunches are unavailable. 210 fresh meals were provided daily by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and distributed on the premises of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. CAP4Kids Philadelphia is an online repository of free and low-cost child rearing resources available across the greater Philadelphia area. The intern's task was to verify the accuracy of and update the entries on CAP4Kids.org, as well as generate handouts linked to the website.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Distributed 4,720 meals directly to children
- Reviewed 782 CAP4Kids entries for organizations and services for accuracy and updating
- Created and distributed a Summer Fun handout for CAP4Kids

Intern handing out meals in the lobby of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children



Free and Low-Cost
Summer Fun



#ItsASummerThing

Find Free and Affordable:

- Sports Clubs
- Pools
- Parks
- Art Programs
- Summer Camps
- And More!



For more free and low-cost resources, visit CAP4Kids.org

Summer Fun handout with QR codes for CAP4Kids.org

REFLECTION

Healthcare is a service best provided through trust, and helping patients in ways beyond what they traditionally associate with medicine is a great way to build that trust. My internship gave me the opportunity to practice speaking with patients and their parents, forming connections in spite of the barriers that exist, such as language, culture, and age. Learning how to build trust with a simple offer of a free meal and a smile is a small but impactful skill for becoming the kind of provider I would like to be. Moreover, working on CAP4Kids not only taught me the clinical value of compiling community resources, but gave me a competency in resources across Philadelphia. I look forward to actually being able to provide patients with options and opportunities to meet their needs. After all, telling a patient they need to exercise more is not the same as providing a patient with resources such as an affordable and accessible gym, rec center, or sports league options.