

Multi-Family Housing • Summer Feeding

## Community Partnerships Feed Children During Summer

Feeding everyone is challenging, especially during summer when school is out of session. Many students in rural communities rely upon their school lunch, and unfortunately do not have access to adequate nutrition at home during summer. Rural Development partners with local communities to bring meals to multi-family housing sites, ensuring the young children living in our multi-family homes eat during the summer.

In Berea, Glades Village Apartments exemplifies how this USDA initiative can spark innovation and establish partnerships that bring food sustainability to local communities.

Children living at Glades Village have access to summer meals onsite, which are handed out by volunteers from Berea College. A mobile feeding station transports the meals to Glades Village, and also transports food throughout the region to children in need. This initiative is sponsored by Grow Appalachia, a non-profit affiliate of Berea College dedicated to bringing food security to the Appalachian region.

Grow Appalachia also sponsors a summer feeding site at Glades Christian Church, a centralized location in the community offering food and activities for children to enjoy their summer days.

Dedicated to increasing food sustainability for members of this community, Grow Appalachia developed an innovative approach for expanding their access to locally grown food: they approached the church leadership and inquired about the possibility of building a garden on a plot of vacant land. Once the church agreed, members received training on how to grow healthy foods through Grow Appalachia, and have built a thriving garden on the church's property.

Partnerships and innovation are the core drivers of the success taking place in Berea. The USDA initiative to feed children at multi-family housing sites has seen amazing growth, and through continued partnerships like these, we will continue pursuing our goal of feeding everyone.



*Grow Appalachia provides guidance to members of this community in Berea on growing a sustainable garden*

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**Congressional District:** Representative Barr, (KY-06); Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul

**Partners:** Berea College, Grow Appalachia, Kentucky Department of Education, Glades Christian Church

**Demographics:** Berea is located at the foothills of the Appalachian mountains and has a rural population of approximately 15,150

**Impact:** USDA summer meals sites provide food to children in need. Multi-family housing complexes are key partners in ensuring young students are fed when school is not in session.