

## Kids Cafe® Nourishes 2 CHP Communities

Many children in low-income neighborhoods do not receive well-balanced evening meals because their caregivers work late hours or cannot afford nutritious food. Though economic times hit everyone hard, those families living on the edge suffer first and worst. Children must receive appropriate nutrition in order to develop properly and perform well in school. Thanks to Kids Cafe®, the children at Ansell Gardens and Cross Creek apartments in Portsmouth, Virginia now have safe, nurturing places to go after school and receive a hot dinner, as well as help with homework from caring individuals.

Kids Cafe® is a national program founded by Feeding America and administered locally by the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. It is a place where children aged 5 through 18 can go to receive free, nutritious evening meals in a safe, supportive environment. A Foodbank Nutritionist oversees the program, prepares the menus and provides nutrition education to the children. There are more than 1,600 locally operated Kids Cafes across the nation.

Said Sylvia Gaines, Property Manager of Ansell Gardens apartments, “So many of our households are struggling financially to provide 3 square meals a day to their families, but Kids Cafe® ensures our neighborhood children get at least one healthy meal each day. It’s a huge relief, and you can tell how grateful the kids are. The children here are like my own, and I care that they’re being well taken care of.”

*Right: Participants of the the Kids Cafe® program enjoy a nutritious meal.*

*“I would like to thank the people who feed our children,” said Ansell Gardens resident and parent Shirley Williams.*

*“I appreciate it very much. [CHP and Kids Cafe] do not have to do it, but they do...so, thank you so much.”*

