



## NEWS ADVISORY

June 4, 2013

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### FIRST LADY GINGER BEEBE TO KICK OFF SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM

*Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign Connects Children to Free Summer Meals*

**Little Rock, AR** – First Lady Ginger Beebe, in partnership with the [Arkansas No Kid Hungry](#)<sup>®</sup> campaign, is joining with the [Arkansas Department of Human Service's Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education-Health and Nutrition unit](#), the [Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance](#), [Share Our Strength](#), USDA officials, and community leaders to kick off the Arkansas Summer Food Service Program at the **Arkansas Dream Center in Little Rock on Thursday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m. CDT.**

For many kids, summertime means food, friends and fun. For families who count on school breakfast and lunch, however, the summer months can be stressful with food budgets being stretched even further than usual. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers free summer meals to children ages 18 and younger who come to a summer meals site. Share Our Strength's [Center for Best Practices](#) reports that in Arkansas, only 13.8 percent of children who receive a free or reduced-price lunch participated in free summer meal programs in 2012. That means many Arkansas children may be at higher risk of food insecurity during the months when school is not in session.

Families may call 1-866-3-HUNGRY, 1-877-8-HAMBRE, go to [www.whyhunger.org/findfood](http://www.whyhunger.org/findfood) or text "FoodAR" to 877-877 to find a site near them. The Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign is generously supported by lead sponsor Walmart, sponsor Weight Watchers<sup>®</sup> and supporter Tyson Foods.

**Who:** **Ginger Beebe**, First Lady, Arkansas; **Dr. Patrick Casey**, Harvey and Bernice Jones Professor of Developmental Pediatrics, and Vice Chairman for Faculty Affairs of the Department of Pediatrics, Arkansas Children's Hospital and University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; **Eddie Longoria**, United States Department of Agriculture, Southwest Region Division Director for Special Nutrition Programs, **Buster Lackey**, Program Administrator, Arkansas Department of Human Services Health and Nutrition Unit; **Patty Barker**, Campaign Director, Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign; **Alyse Eady**, Channel 11 Anchor, **Drew Davis**, AR Dream Center Director.

**What:** Press conference & facility tour to kick off the Arkansas Summer Food Service Program

**Where:** AR Dream Center, 1116 W Daisy L Gatson Bates Drive in Little Rock (at the corner of Cross St. and Daisy Bates Drive)

**When:** Thursday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. CDT

