



Backpack Program to Include Free Monthly Hot Lunch

The Healthy Meals 4 Kids (HM4K) Program, a partnership between Salida School District, Salida Boys & Girls Club, Amica's and LiveWell Chaffee County will be serving a free hot lunch once a month through the end of the school year for all Salida School District students.

The HM4K program was established to ensure students can access healthy food when school is not in session during the school year through the Mountain Lion Backpack Program and the summer food program. Amica's has been providing 265 backpack meals to students at all schools in the Salida School District for kids in need of a meal on Fridays since the district is on a four day school week.

Hot meals will be served on January 23rd, February 13th, March 13th, April 10th and May 8th in place of backpack meals going home with students. Meals will be served from 11:30am-12:30pm at the Salida Boys & Girls Club. Students do not need to be a member of the Club, there are no eligibility requirements, nor is there any paperwork for parents to fill out in order for kids to receive a free meal. Students who wish to participate in the Boys & Girls Club program before or after lunch are encouraged to do so. Parents and guardians can visit the Club or call for details on membership.

"We are excited to partner with the three groups who work year-round to put healthy meals in front of the kids who need our help the most," said Brian Beaulieu, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Chaffee County. "Great kids plus great providers plus great food equals the perfect recipe for success. These Fridays just became much more special!"

The HM4K Program is funded through generous donations from the First Presbyterian Church, Amica's and through a semi-annual dine out fundraiser.

For questions about the program please or for more information about the Salida Boys & Girls Club or to become a member please call 539-9500.