**NELSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Nelsonville, Ohio**

Since 1997, the Nelsonville Public Library system has been offering Summer Food at libraries located in low-income areas in conjunction with their summer reading program. After starting with one site, Nelsonville has expanded to four libraries, serving about 100 children per day.

Summer Food attracts children who might not otherwise visit the library during the summer. At the end of the morning’s *Book Camp* activities, lunch is served to all the children. Many of the children then choose to stay in the library for the rest of the afternoon, reading by themselves.

Nelsonville partners with the local Meals-on-Wheels to prepare the lunches for the children. Meals-on-Wheels uses its existing food transportation equipment to deliver the meals to the libraries.

Professional magicians, storytellers and puppeteers entertain the children in the program. Librarians also find creative ways to explore themes with the kids. Last summer, one librarian created a yoga program for kids. Another librarian focused on fabrics and taught the children how to weave on a Navajo loom. Another librarian taught the children to fold Japanese paper cranes. All activities were tied in to children’s books on those subjects.

Contact: Stephen Hedges

Phone: 740-753-2118

E-mail: shedges@athenscounty.lib.oh.us