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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CDC TO OFFER FREE LUNCH PROGRAM AT 7 SITES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

For the ninth straight summer, Child Development Centers (CDC) will offer its Lunch Time free lunch program for children and teenagers at several local schools, churches, playgrounds and other sites.

Funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and CDC covers the costs of the Lunch Time program.

Except as noted below, lunches will be available from noon to 2 pm every weekday from Tuesday, June 7, to Friday, August 25, at the following locations:

Cooperstown – Community Church of God (11 am-1 pm).

Franklin – Atlantic Avenue Playground, Central Elementary School, Evergreen Arbors.

Oil City – Free Methodist Church of Oil City (both the Wilson Avenue and Willow Street locations, 11:30 am-12:45 pm), Land of Laughter Playground (Harriott Avenue).

Lunch Time will offer a two-week menu that will be used throughout the summer. The menu will be as follows:

Week 1 – Monday, chicken patties; Tuesday, hamburgers; Wednesday, hot dogs; Thursday, ham and cheese sandwich; Friday, sloppy joes.

Week 2 – Monday, turkey meatballs; Tuesday, hot dogs; Wednesday, hamburgers; Thursday, chicken patties; Friday, mini-hoagies.

Each meal includes fruit, a vegetable and milk. Turkey and cheese sandwiches will be available each day for children who prefer an option other than the scheduled entrée.

Lunch Time is intended to make a nutritious midday meal available to students when school is not in session, to help families whose children lose their school-based free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch benefits during summer, and to extend nutrition to children who aren't yet old enough to attend school, according to CDC Chief Executive Officer Rina Irwin.

The summer program has no income guidelines, so any family with children up to age 18 is welcome to participate, including those who have infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Families do not have to register to obtain meals. Children may report to any Lunch Time site on any day they wish to eat a free lunch. Adults will be charged \$3 per meal.

Families can learn more by contacting Lunch Time director Holland Culver at CDC at 670-0838 or hculver@cdcenters.org.

CDC served more than 20,000 lunches last year (320 per day) and hopes to increase participation in its nutrition outreach this year, Irwin said.