

# ICSD Child Nutrition Program Caters Business After Hours Event



On Oct. 9, the ICSD Child Nutrition Program catered the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event at the Cornell Plantations Nevin Welcome Center. This October's event featured Kids Discover the Trail, the unique collaboration between the Ithaca City School District, the Ithaca Public Education Initiative and the Discovery Trail. For the event, the Child Nutrition Program created a menu featuring locally sourced ingredients including winter squash soup, veggies and hummus – made from the Cool School Food Recipe. The program has been working with local farms over the last few years to incorporate more local foods into its menus and has seen a lot of success.

"We heard many comments on how good the food was and people couldn't believe that the ICSD Child Nutrition Program provided the food," said David Cornell, manager of the Ithaca High School cafeteria.

The Business After Hours event was by no means the first event to be catered by the Child Nutrition Program. Over the summer, the program catered the Edustat Conference and provided food for two days to more than 350 educators from Ithaca and around the nation.

The program also catered a two-day class reunion in July and served similar menus that it serves to students. The program has a number of upcoming catering jobs including the Senior Class BBQ Fundraiser on Oct. 19, the All-County Music Festival on Jan. 17 and 18, the Superintendent's Commendation Ceremony, and the Cascadilla Boat Club Fundraiser.

The school lunch program runs 52 weeks a year and feeds many children during the summer months who may not have access to three meals a day.

"We're very proud of our staff and our accomplishments that we have worked for over the years. We also appreciate the ICSD for giving us the tools we need to create a better and healthier environment for our students," said Denise Agati, director of the Child Nutrition Program.

Others have taken notice of the program's recent accomplishments. At last week's Board of Education meeting, board member Seth Peacock mentioned that the Child Nutrition Program has been "in the black" two years in a row and applauded the creative efforts which have made the program a success.

