

TITLE: When school is out for the Summer, Rockwood families struggle to locate appropriate resources

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Educators and school resource coordinators, community leaders, nonprofit leaders, and county health departments

ABSTRACT: Background: The Rockwood neighborhood in East Portland is home to a community in need. Rockwood public schools provide a wealth of resources for students during the school year. Families in Rockwood face gaps in critical resources when school is not in session. OHSU's Interprofessional Care Access Network (I-CAN) nursing students and partners are working to fill this gap. Methods: I-CAN students in their Population Health rotation met with an elementary school partner to identify community needs during summer. Students sent a partner-approved survey to teachers and parents to assess the Rockwood community's needs. Survey data, community stakeholder interviews, and service agencies were used to compile a pamphlet and online document of community services available during summer to address critical resource gaps. Results: Survey results confirmed the need in Rockwood for various resources when school is out, namely quality childcare with healthy meals and structured activities. Students successfully developed and distributed a school-approved comprehensive resource list for families in Rockwood for summer 2022. Conclusion: Families in Rockwood depend on public schools to access vital resources and experience a significant disparity during summer months. Ongoing efforts to provide updated resources with outreach to families in Rockwood is needed to address this gap.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the needs of families in the Rockwood neighborhood during the summer. Describe local and low-cost resources for families in Rockwood. Discuss the impact of having a resource list such as this available to parents.
