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NEWS RELEASE

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School Nutrition Wins Georgia Peanut Commission Award



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County School District’s School Nutrition Program (SNP) was recently honored by the Georgia Peanut Commission. The district was given the “Peanut Butter Usage Award” for its 2020 pandemic feeding program. Georgia’s peanut farmers recognized the critical effort school nutrition partners made to feed the state’s most food-vulnerable students when COVID-19 caused a closure of schools. Houston was one of four districts to win top honors.

The Georgia Peanut Commission worked with the Georgia School Nutrition Association to highlight the efforts of school districts in the areas of innovation, volume and community engagement. Each winning district received a trophy, 123 cases of peanut butter for the feeding program, and a Georgia Peanuts dish towel and spatula for each team member. The cases total 720 jars of 16 oz. peanut butter. Pictured (from left) in the warehouse with the prizes are: Lauren Koff, HCSD Dietician; Leslie Wagner, Southern Peanut Growers; Jessie Bland, Georgia Peanut Commission; and Meredith Potter, HCSD Director of School Nutrition.

Houston County’s employees left work on Friday, Mar. 13, 2020, not knowing that it was the end of in-person learning for the 2019-2020 school year. Within just two school days, the SNP began offering seven days of meals per week for any child under the age of 18. On June 10, School

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Nutrition celebrated serving one million meals since Mar. 17, to include thousands of cases of Smucker's Uncrustables® Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches.



“We love to see industry partners recognizing the effort school nutrition programs put forth to help our communities during this time,” said Potter. “Uncrustables are certainly a popular menu item, and we are glad to be able to support Georgia’s peanut farmers while feeding the children of Houston County.”

Meals are still being provided every Wednesday at middle and high schools at no charge to children ages 18 and under. For more information, please contact Potter at 478-322-3308 or Meredith.Potter@hcbe.net.

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