Critics of the program see this as yet another “handout” for the least fortunate among us. Their criticism is unfounded. No taxpayer money is being used.

South Euclid Councilwoman Ruth Gray is to be commended for initiating a program that is providing nutritious breakfasts and lunches for youngsters who live her ward over the summer months.

The program is aimed at children who qualify for free or reduced fee breakfasts and lunches during the school year but who may otherwise go hungry when schools let out for the summer.

Critics of the program see this as yet another “handout” for the least fortunate among us. Their criticism is unfounded. No taxpayer money is being used.

Instead, generous donors and Catholic Charities have enabled this program to come to fruition. Not only are meals provided, but the project also teaches leadership, communications and social skills to children while at the day-long sessions.

To us, it’s not only the right thing to do, but it’s a practical move.

During the summer months, children in the northern part of South Euclid will have something constructive to do while under supervision. This is much better than having them roam the streets aimlessly out of boredom or isolate themselves at home in front of a video game.

Gray’s initiative not only feeds bodies but feeds minds as well.

It can’t get much better than that.

We continue to live in tough economic times in northeast Ohio and many families are struggling.

Councilwoman Gray’s foresight in initiating this program is to be commended.

Other inner ring suburbs may wish to consider similar projects next summer.