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YMCA of Greater Seattle Offers Summer Food Program to Combat Child Hunger in King County

In partnership with the Walmart Foundation, the YMCA of Greater Seattle is one of 1,100 sites that will serve nearly 5 million healthy meals and snacks to 200,000 youth

SEATTLE, June 30, 2015 – The Y (www.ymca.net) announced today it will extend its free Summer Food Program to more than twice as many locations this summer. More than 1,100 locations across the country, including the YMCA of Greater Seattle, will offer the program aimed at keeping children healthy, active and well-nourished all summer long. The program runs June 28 to September 3 (each location may have different dates, please check our website for specifics) and is open to kids and teens ages 18 and under.

Made possible through a \$5.3 million grant from the Walmart Foundation, the Y Summer Food Program will serve 5 million nutritious meals and snacks along with fun learning activities to 200,000 kids and teens across the country. The YMCA of Greater Seattle will serve over 60,000 here in King County. To learn more about the YMCA of Greater Seattle's Summer Food Program, contact Nicole Lowe (206-678-3471 or nlowe@seattleyymca.org) or visit ymca.net/summerfood.

"Kids across the country and within our own community rely on free and low-cost lunch plans during the school year, and they're at risk of going hungry when school's not in session," said Nicole Lowe, Meals Program Director at the YMCA of Greater Seattle. "The Y's Summer Food Program will help fill that gap to make sure kids can enjoy healthy and delicious meals and snacks all summer long."

During the school year, more than 16.9 million children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Only 2.3 million, or about 12 percent, of these young people have access to free meals over the summer break.

To help ensure children in King County avoid this summertime gap, Summer Food Program participants will receive a nutritious lunch and enjoy various fun activities.

In 2014, the YMCA of Greater Seattle served 108,000 meals and 107,000 snacks to kids and teens around King County. 2015 marks the program's fifth year and the Y's ongoing commitment to helping kids hop the gap by nurturing the physical, mental and social-emotional

development of youth. Since the start of the Summer Food Program, the Y has served approximately 34.5 million healthy meals and snacks to nearly 400,000 kids.

During the school year, the YMCA of Greater Seattle will also serve healthy meals and snacks in its afterschool program to provide kids with nourishment and academic enrichment.

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About the YMCA of Greater Seattle

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is the Northwest's leading nonprofit organization strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Founded in 1876, the Y reaches more than 280,000 people of all backgrounds, abilities and financial circumstances annually through 13 branches, two overnight camps and more than 200 program sites throughout King and south Snohomish counties. It nurtures more than 92,000 kids and teens to develop their gifts and give back to our community and engages more than 18,000 volunteers who contribute 340,000 hours of service each year. Visit www.seattleymca.org.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

By using our strengths to help others, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation create opportunities for people to live better every day. We have stores in 27 countries, employing more than 2.2 million associates and doing business with thousands of suppliers who, in turn, employ millions of people. We are helping people live better by accelerating upward job mobility and economic development for the retail workforce; addressing hunger and making healthier, more sustainably-grown food a reality; and building strong communities where we operate and inspiring our associates to give back. Whether it is helping to lead the fight against hunger in the United States with \$2 billion in cash and in-kind donations or supporting Women's Economic Empowerment through a series of grants totaling \$10 million to the Women in Factories training program in Bangladesh, China, India and Central America, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are not only working to tackle key social issues, we are also collaborating with others to inspire solutions for long-lasting systemic change. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit www.foundation.walmart.com.

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