



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 2011**

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The Y Fights Child Hunger with Help from the Walmart Foundation

The YMCA of Greater Seattle joins national effort to provide 7 million meals to children this summer, as part of Walmart's Summer Giving Campaign

July 11, 2011 (SEATTLE) – When the school year ends, so do free meals for the millions of children in low-income households who depend on them most. This summer, the YMCA of Greater Seattle is offering free nutritious meals to children throughout the Northwest, thanks to a \$45,000 grant from YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) and Walmart to feed children through the national Summer Food Service Program.

The program, run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides free meals to children aged 18 and under while school is out of session. Nationally, more than 300 Ys will provide 7 million meals to 70,000 children this summer.

According to the USDA, 19.5 million low-income children receive free or reduced-cost meals during the school year. As part of the YMCA of Greater Seattle's summer food program, children ages 18 and under throughout the Northwest will be able to continue to receive lunches. Not only will this help children get nutrition they need for good health, but it also will help alleviate the strain on family food budgets when school is out.

"Thousands of children and families in the Northwest are at greater risk for hunger in the summer months," says Christi Beckley of the YMCA of Greater Seattle. "With so many children who lose access to daily meals when the school lunch program is over, the Y is committed to stepping in and helping to ensure our children stay healthy and strong."

The YMCA of Greater Seattle's summer food program received funding as part of Walmart's Summer Giving Campaign – a broad \$25 million initiative aimed at filling the gaps created when schools close this summer. The initiative will help expand nutrition, learning and employment services to more than 110,000 U.S. middle and high school students throughout the summer months. Walmart contributed a \$3 million grant to Y-USA to address child hunger.

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is now offering free lunches for children at the following locations:

The Vineyard Church/Turning Point, age 18 & under
14800 1st Ave. NE, Shoreline
M&W, July 11-August 17, 12:15-1:15 pm

Ronald Methodist Church, age 18 & under
17839 Aurora Ave. N, Shoreline
M-F, June 20-August 26, 11:45 am-12:45 pm

Matt Griffin YMCA, ages 2-18
3595 S 188th St., SeaTac
M-F, July 5-August 26, 11 am-12:30 pm

Bailey Gatzert Elementary, ages 1-18
1301 E Yesler Way, Seattle
M-F, June 27-August 26, Noon-12:30 pm

Thurgood Marshall Elementary, ages 1-18
2401 S Irving St., Seattle
M-F June 27-August 26, Noon-12:30 pm

Dunlap Elementary, ages 1-18
4525 S Cloverdale St., Seattle
M-F, June 27-August 26, Noon-12:30 pm

Warren G. Magnuson Park, ages 1-18
7400 Sandpoint Way, Seattle
M-F, June 27-August 2, Noon-1pm

Help the Y Raise Awareness

The need to provide healthy meals to children over the summer is critical, as more families struggle with the issue of hunger. To help generate awareness, supporters are invited to tweet about the Y's hunger efforts with the hashtag #YFightHunger on Twitter (e.g., "the Y is feeding 70,000 kids this summer. #YFightHunger). The Y's goal is to collect 70,000 "tweets" to represent each of the 70,000 children that the Y will feed this summer. This live Twitter feed will appear on a webpage on the Y's national website, ymca.net.

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 enhance the lives of more than 190,700 people annually through 12 branches, two overnight camps and more than 200 program sites throughout King and south Snohomish counties. Visit seattleyymca.org.

About the Y

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. ymca.net



About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart and its Foundation made a historic pledge of \$2 billion through 2015 to fight hunger in the U.S. The Walmart Foundation also supports education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.