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Tampa YMCA Expands Veggie Van Stops to Plant City

Tampa, FL (Aug. 22, 2017) – The [Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA](#) is expanding its [Veggie Van – A Mobile Market Place](#) to include two scheduled stops in Plant City. Through the Veggie Van, the Tampa Y distributes fresh fruits and vegetables into targeted communities, which are labeled food deserts, across Hillsborough and East Pasco counties.

A food desert is defined as an urban neighborhood without ready access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. In addition to Plant City, the Y's Veggie Van distributes produce in the communities of Tampa Heights, Sulphur Springs, Wimauma Village and Ladoochee. Each of these five locations has a demonstrated need for nutritional wellness. Community food distributions take place every two weeks on a rotating basis.

The first Plant City stops will take place Friday, Sept. 1st from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at Dover Elementary on 3035 Nelson Avenue in Dover and from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Marshall Middle School on 18 S. Maryland Avenue in Plant City. The Veggie Van will stop at these two schools during the same time periods on Sept. 15th and 29th.

The Veggie Van serves adults with children in the household or who are designated caregivers, under 200 percent of poverty line, free/reduced meals participants and from the targeted neighborhoods. The mobile market place has a nutritionist on staff to work with families on improving food preparation and cooking habits to minimize the risk of obesity, chronic disease and high blood pressure.

The Veggie Van is possible thanks to the following founding partners: Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Joy McCann Foundation and Bank of America. To learn more about the Veggie Van, [click here](#).

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About the Tampa Y

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is a cause-driven [4-star charity](#), strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities for 128 years, through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 18 facilities engage more than 150,000 men, women and children — regardless of age, income or background — to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve our community's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Tampa Y has long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.tampaymca.org