



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Lalita Llerena  
Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA  
813.224.9622 ext. 1240  
813.545.7772 (cell)  
[Lalita.Llerena@tampaymca.org](mailto:Lalita.Llerena@tampaymca.org)

## **Tampa YMCA Offers Free Summer Meals & Activities**

*Tampa YMCA joins national anti-hunger effort to serve 5 million meals to kids, in partnership with the Walmart Foundation*

**Tampa, FL (June 16, 2014)** – To ensure fewer kids and teens go hungry this summer, the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is offering a free Summer Food Program, thanks to a \$35,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation. Combining food and fun, the program will provide free meals, plus activities to keep kids' minds and bodies active. **The program runs from now until August 15<sup>th</sup> and is open to all kids in the community** between ages 5-18.

The Tampa YMCA's Summer Food Program is part of a national partnership between YMCA of the USA and the Walmart Foundation to address child hunger in communities. While more than 30 million children in low-income communities receive free or reduced-cost meals during the school year, only 2.3 million of these same kids have access to free meals when school is out. At more than 1,100 summer food program sites nationwide, the Y will strive to serve 5 million healthy meals and snacks to 150,000 kids this summer.

The Tampa YMCA is partnering with the USDA's Summer Food Service Program and the Potter's House to serve children free meals, which meet federal nutrition guidelines. **Between now and August 15<sup>th</sup>, any child between ages 5-18 can have free breakfast or lunch at the following branches: Bob Gilbertson Central City Family YMCA, Bob Sierra Family YMCA, New Tampa Family YMCA, North Brandon Family YMCA, Northwest Hillsborough Family YMCA, Plant City Family YMCA, Sulphur Springs YMCA and YMCA Camp Cristina.** Summer meals and activities are free and available to any child at these sites only. To find out more about the time frames when meals and activities are available contact [your local branch](#).

"The Y is committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility and is working to ensure all kids have access to meals, as well as healthy food options, so they can continue to be healthy and thrive when out of school," says Ashley Sorensen, executive director of the Northwest Hillsborough Family YMCA. "The YMCA's Summer Food Program will help kids stay well-nourished, active and energized, and also provide some relief to families who need support in providing more food when school is out."

To learn more about the Tampa YMCA's Summer Food Program, email [ashley.sorensen@tampaymca.org](mailto:ashley.sorensen@tampaymca.org) or visit [www.ymca.net/summerfood](http://www.ymca.net/summerfood).

###

About the Tampa Y

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is a cause-driven [4-star charity](#) and one of the area's leading nonprofits, strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 19 facilities engage more than 167,000 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](http://www.tampaymca.org)

#### **About Philanthropy at Walmart**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts. By operating globally and giving back locally, Walmart is uniquely positioned to address the needs of the communities it serves and make a significant social impact within its core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Career Opportunity and Women's Economic Empowerment. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are leading the fight against hunger in the United States with a \$2 billion commitment through 2015. Walmart has donated more than 1 billion meals to those in need across the country. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit [foundation.walmart.com](http://foundation.walmart.com).