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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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## Tampa YMCA Offers Free Summer Meals and Activities

*Tampa YMCA joins national anti-hunger effort to serve 4 million meals to kids, in partnership with the Walmart Foundation*

**Tampa, FL (June 12, 2013)** – 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 \$50,000 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 16 and is open to all kids ages 18 and under.**

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 900 summer food program sites nationwide, the Y will strive to serve 4 million healthy meals and snacks to 100,000 kids this summer.

"In order for kids to maintain good health, they need proper nourishment as well as activities to keep their minds and bodies active," said Candace Culver, executive director of YMCA Childcare Services. "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."

The Tampa YMCA is partnering with the federal Summer Food Service Program and the Potter's House to serve children free meals, which meet federal nutrition guidelines. **Between now and August 16<sup>th</sup>, any child age 18 and under can have free breakfast or lunch at the following branches: Bob Sierra Family YMCA, Bob Gilbertson Central City Family YMCA, East Pasco Family YMCA, New Tampa Family YMCA, North Brandon Family YMCA, Northwest Hillsborough Family YMCA, Plant City Family YMCA, South Tampa 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. In partnership with the Walmart Foundation, the Y's Summer Food Program is part of a year-round effort to fight child hunger.

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

To learn more about the Tampa YMCA's Summer Food Program, email [Candace.Culver@tampaymca.org](mailto:Candace.Culver@tampaymca.org) or call 813-223-2895 ext. 251 or visit [www.ymca.net/summerfood](http://www.ymca.net/summerfood).

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#### **About the Y**

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is 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 142,000 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).