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Contact:

Donna Gill Lisitano

Marketing and Communications Director

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA

1240 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 06511

P 203 777 9622 ext 2114 E dlistitano@cccymca.org

For Immediate Release

Bridgeport YMCA Partners with the Walmart Foundation to Address Child Hunger Through Afterschool Programs

The Bridgeport YMCA joins national effort to serve 3 million healthy meals and snacks throughout the school year

[New Haven, CT November 16, 2012] – The Bridgeport YMCA, a branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA is serving meals and snacks in its afterschool program, thanks to a \$7500 from the Walmart Foundation. The Bridgeport Y's goal is to serve over 10,000 meals and snacks throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

Nearly 50 million Americans, including more than 16 million children and teens under age 18, live with food insecurity, according to the USDA. High poverty rates, significant unemployment and rising gas prices are all contributing to the difficulty many families have in putting food on the table. Through its afterschool program, and additional funding from the Walmart Foundation, the Y will serve more children through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which feeds school-aged children during the week, on weekends and during school vacations. Nationally, more than 175 Ys will supplement their learning enrichment programs with a food component, funded through CACFP, to their afterschool programs and aim to serve 3 million meals and snacks.

"Some students, particularly those who receive free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch, may not know where their next meal will come from when the school day ends," said Tim Bartlett, Executive Director of the Bridgeport Y. "At the Bridgeport Y, we are committed to keeping kids nourished all year long. Thanks to the Walmart Foundation, our Y will be able to do more to address this issue."

Combining play with academics, YMCA afterschool programs promote creativity, a love for learning, social and emotional development and character building, while complementing lessons learned during the school day.

As a leading nonprofit committed to healthy living, while feeding more children, the Y is also working to improve the nutritional value of all meals and snacks served in early child care and afterschool settings. The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has committed standards to ensure children eat the healthy foods and get adequate amounts of physical activity.

To learn more, contact the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA or the Bridgeport Y 203 334 5551 or visit www.cccymca.org.

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About the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA is a community service agency dedicated to addressing community needs that enrich families, promote health and wellness, develop youth and build self-esteem for all. YMCA membership and participation is open to everyone regardless of race or ethnic background, religious preference or ability to pay. In 2011, the CCC YMCA served 3,000 families daily in child care programs; 10,000 kids participated in youth sports programs; 15,500 children took advantage of the Y's instructional swimming lessons; 4,693 kids attended one of our day camps, 776 youth experienced the magic of resident camp; and 1,685 people were served through one of our housing programs. The CCC YMCA also provided \$3.37 million in direct financial assistance to more than 6,000 children, individuals and families. The Central Connecticut Coast Y is based in downtown New Haven with eleven Y branches in Greater New Haven and Greater Bridgeport while also operating YMCA Camp Hi-Rock, a 1,000 acre residential and day camp in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts. **W** cccymca.org **P** 203 777 9622