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## **The Y is 'Serving Up Summer' with the Walmart Foundation to Fight Child Hunger**

*The Bridgeport YMCA joins national effort to serve 5 million healthy meals and snacks to 100,000 children to help keep them well-nourished.*

While summer should be a time of fun, exploration and relaxation, many children are left without the nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive. More than 21 million children lose access to free or reduced-cost meals once the school year ends, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To ensure that children in Bridgeport, CT have access to food year-round, the Bridgeport YMCA is offering free healthy meals and snacks through its summer food program at the Kolbe Educational Center, thanks to a \$5,000 grant funded by the Walmart Foundation.

The Y has partnered with the Walmart Foundation to address child hunger in communities, with a focus on increasing participation in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which provides free meals to children aged 18 and under while school is out. According to the Food Research and Action Center, only in one in seven children who depend on free or reduced-cost meals during the school year received meals through the SFSP last summer. This summer, more than 300 Ys nationwide will offer summer food programs with a collective goal to serve 5 million healthy meals and snacks to 100,000 children. Here in Bridgeport, CT; the Y plans to serve 850 meals and/or snacks to help over 190 children stay well-nourished.

"For some children in our communities, the end of the school year means end of meals," said Timothy Bartlett, Executive Director of the Bridgeport YMCA, a branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA. "At the Y, we are focused on making sure children stay healthy and well-nourished. Thanks to the partnership with the Walmart Foundation, our Y will be able to provide meals to children in the community who need them most."

"At Walmart, we recognize the need to support the development of our nation's youth," said Sylvia Mathews Burwell, president of the Walmart Foundation. "We know that providing access to healthy meals during the summer months will enable students to return to school healthy, prepared and ready to succeed. By working closely with the Bridgeport YMCA, we can help kids have better summers and, ultimately, better lives."

At the Kolbe Educational Center, children will receive two meals a day and a snack a day to keep them nourished, active and energized all summer long. As a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y is focused on ensuring that all children have access to food and maintain good health.

Nationally, the Y is a partner in the Walmart Foundation's 2012 Summer Giving Campaign, which has committed more than \$20 million in grants to expand nutrition, learning and employment programs for elementary, middle and high school students in more than 350 communities. The Walmart Foundation contributed a \$5 million grant to YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) to address child hunger. Y-USA, in turn, passes the funding along in the form of grants to participating YMCAs.

To learn more about the Bridgeport YMCA's summer food program, visit [ymca.net/summer-food-program](http://ymca.net/summer-food-program).

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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](http://cccymca.org) **P** 203 777 9622

### **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](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).