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## **Moultrie YMCA Offers Summer Food Program to Help Kids Get Their 'Fill of Fun'**

*Moultrie YMCA joins national effort to serve 5 million meals to 150,000 kids and teens, in partnership with the Walmart Foundation*

Moultrie, GA June 24, 2014– In an effort to combat child hunger, Moultrie YMCA will offer its free Summer and Year Round Food Program, thanks to a \$20K grant from the Walmart Foundation. Combining food and fun, the program provides nutritious meals and fun learning enrichment activities to keep youth healthy, active and well-nourished all summer long. The program runs from now until July 31 and is open to kids ages 18 and under that are enrolled in YMCA Summer Day Camp and the R.D. Smith Youth Center.

Research shows that more than 30 million children in low-income communities receive free or reduced-cost meals during the school year, but only 2.3 million of these same kids have access to free meals when school is out. To help fill summertime gap and ensure fewer children go hungry, the Moultrie YMCA will serve 125 children during the summer and anticipate serving an additional 300 children when school begins here in Colquitt County. 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.

"At the Y, we are focused on keeping kids mentally and physically active while ensuring they have access to healthy food so they're well-nourished and avoid the 'summer slide'," said Savannah Mothershed, Program Director at the Moultrie YMCA. "The YMCA's Summer Food Program will help kids stay healthy, active and energized all summer long, ensuring they start the school year ready to achieve."

Participants in the Moultrie YMCA's Walmart Summer Food Program will receive dinner and enjoy various food and fun enrichment activities. To reach more youth who may be unable to visit the Y, the Moultrie YMCA is taking the Summer Food Program out into the community by partnering with R.D. Smith Youth Center to bring healthy meals and fun activities to these kids.

Although the Walmart Summer Food Program that distributes dinner is a closed program for registered participants, the Moultrie YMCA also participates in the Colquitt County School Nutrition Department's Summer Feeding Program. Feeding sites are located at the YMCA and Stringfellow Elementary, which are open to any child under the age of 18 for breakfast and lunch.

The Y is committed to nurturing the physical, mental and social-emotional development of youth and is working to ensure that all kids have access to nutritious meals, so they can continue to be healthy and thrive when out of school. The YMCA's Summer Food Program, now in its fourth year, is part of a year-round effort to fight child hunger in partnership with the Walmart Foundation. In 2013, the Y provided a total of 7.5 million meals to children across the country through Afterschool and Summer Food Programs.

During the school year, Moultrie YMCA will also serve healthy meals in selected afterschool programs to provide kids with nourishment and academic enrichment.

To learn more about the Moultrie YMCA's Summer Food Program, call Savannah Mothershed at 229-985-1154 or visit [moultrieymca.org](http://moultrieymca.org) or [ymca.net/summerfood](http://ymca.net/summerfood).

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The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change.

#### **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. Together, they have 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).