



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **Moultrie YMCA**

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**For Immediate Release**

### **YMCA prepares 30,000 meals**

Moultrie, GA – The Moultrie YMCA offered an Afterschool Meal Program to help children stay healthy and succeed in school throughout the 2014-15 school year. Through a national partnership between YMCA of the USA and the Walmart Foundation, the program combines learning enrichment activities with physical activity to keep minds and bodies active, while also serving a healthy meal to kids who may otherwise be at risk of hunger when the school day ends.

According to the USDA, nearly 50 million Americans – including more than 16 million children and teens under age 18 – live with food insecurity. “Thanks to the Walmart Foundation, our Y was able to do more to address this issue all year long,” said Savannah Mothershed, YMCA Food Program Director. Since the school year ended in late May, the Moultrie YMCA’s total number of meals served was an astounding 30,586! These meals were served to some 450 children in Colquitt County who were enrolled in a YMCA program served by the grant.

Local partnerships with Packer Produce, Sysco Gulf Coast, Moultrie Distributors, Inc., the Colquitt County School System and various churches in the community have made this program a success thus far.

As part of a long-time commitment to youth development, the Y nurtures the physical, mental and social-emotional development of youth. Combining play with academic enrichment, YMCA afterschool programs promote creativity, a love for learning, social and emotional development and character building, while complementing lessons learned during the school day. The YMCA’s Food & Fun curriculum, developed in collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health, is one of our tools for creating healthy environments and supporting the well-being of kids at the Y and at home. Food & Fun is designed to incorporate lessons and activities about healthy eating and physical activity into regular afterschool program schedules.

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The Y's Afterschool Meal Program is part of a year-round effort to address child hunger. YMCA staff was fortunate to engage volunteers in the preparation of meals, totaling 146 hours of volunteer service from August to May. "We are so grateful to these volunteers who recognize the importance of addressing the hunger issues in our community, and the impact of hunger on student performance. Without their help, it would be very difficult for us to prepare and distribute 30,000 meals over the course of a school year," says Greg Coop, Moultrie YMCA CEO.

During the summer months, the Moultrie YMCA participates with Colquitt County Schools as a Summer Feeding Site. Students in the YMCA's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Summer Program and students in the Summer Learning Loss Prevention Program are also served through the School Summer Feeding Program.

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.

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.

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