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## **The Y Fights Child Hunger This Summer with Help from the Walmart Foundation**

*The Family YMCA joins national effort to provide 7 million meals to children this summer, as part of Walmart's Summer Giving Campaign*

LOS ALAMOS/ESPANOLA, 8/5/12] – When the school year ends, so do free meals for the millions of children in low-income households who depend on them most. This summer, The Family YMCA provided free nutritious meals to 70 children at the Espanola's Teen Center thanks to a \$7,500 grant from YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) and Walmart in partnership with the national Summer Food Service Program. The program, run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides free meals to children aged 18 and under while school is out of session. Nationally, more than 300 Ys will provided 7 million meals to 70,000 children this summer.

According to the USDA, 19.5 million low-income children receive free or reduced-cost meals during the school year, including numerous children in that were served at various sites Espanola. As part of The Family YMCA's summer food program, children aged 18 and under received lunch and a snack, Monday through Friday in June and July. Not only did this help the 70 children served at the Teen Center to get nutrition needed for good health, it also helped alleviated the strain on those family food budgets while school was out.

"Millions of children and families are at greater risk for hunger in the summer months," says Linda Daly, CEO of The Family YMCA. "With so many children who lose access to daily meals when the school lunch program is over, The Family YMCA is committed to stepping in and helping to ensure our children stay healthy and strong."

The Family YMCA's summer food program received funding as part of Walmart's Summer Giving Campaign – a broad \$25 million initiative aimed at filling the gaps created when schools close this summer. The initiative helps expand nutrition, learning and employment services to more than 110,000 U.S. middle and high school students throughout the summer months. Walmart contributed a \$3 million grant to Y-USA to address child hunger. With this grant money, the Y purchased new kitchen appliances to assist with food storage. The Y partnered with the

Espanola Public School system to be a provider site. They used the grant funds to purchase appliances for the food program.

### **Help the Y Raise Awareness**

The need to provide healthy meals to children over the summer is critical, as more families struggle with the issue of hunger. To help generate awareness, supporters are invited to tweet about the Y's hunger efforts with the hashtag #YFightHunger on Twitter (e.g., "the Y is feeding 70,000 kids this summer. #YFightHunger). The Y's goal is to collect 70,000 "tweets" to represent each of the 70,000 children that the Y will feed this summer. This live Twitter feed will appear on a webpage on the Y's national website, ymca.net.

To learn more about The Family YMCA's summer food program, visit [ymca.net/summer-food-program](http://ymca.net/summer-food-program) [www.laymca.org](http://www.laymca.org).

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The Family YMCA was founded in Los Alamos in 1955 by volunteers whom saw a need for a place where families could recreate together. Primary services include youth, family, and community programming; after school care and summer camp programming, and a wellness facility in Los Alamos; and teen recreational and academic programming in Española and Los Alamos. The **mission** of The Family YMCA's Española Teen Center is to strengthen the efficacy of community teens through educational support, outreach and character development. The full mission of our organization, administratively based in Los Alamos, NM, is to strengthen the foundations of community by engaging in partnerships for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We are a charitable, community-serving organization that promotes strong values, leadership development, service-learning, community interaction, healthy life choices and healthy lifestyles.



### **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).