

## Press Release

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# Join HPARD Summer Food Service Program to Fight Childhood Hunger!

School lunch programs end for the summer and hunger becomes an acute problem for many children in Houston. To combat this, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the Summer Food Service Program to provide a free daily meal to children through a partnership with youth organizations, churches, apartment complexes, learning centers, schools, recreation centers, and non-profit agencies across the city. The call is going out to youth-oriented organizations to become a Summer Food Service Program site.

The Summer Food Service Program operates from June 6 through August 19, 2011. Meals are provided to all children ages 1 – 18 without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. No on-site food preparation is required and no money is involved. Sites must participate in the program a minimum of one month and serve a minimum of 24 children. Fresh, nutritious packed lunches and snacks will be delivered to the site daily.

Groups and organizations interested in joining this effort must submit a Request to Participate form prior to April 15, 2011. The form is available online at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

This program has been sponsored by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department since 1984. It is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture and is funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*