



Press Release

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Houston Parks & Recreation Department Earns Grant To Fight Hunger in Children During The Summer *Grant through National Recreation & Park Association & Walmart Foundation provides nutritious meals*

The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (HPARD), in partnership with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), has been selected to benefit from a \$1.5 million grant received by NRPA from the Walmart Foundation to support summer feeding programs in 28 park & recreation agencies across the U.S. H.P.A.R.D. has received a \$53,200 grant to support its food service program in Houston.

"Helping children & families in our local community is one of our key objectives," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Department. "We are thrilled to be a part of NRPA's national effort to combat hunger, particularly in these troubled economic times, & are pleased that Walmart has lent their support to Houston. Through Walmart's generosity, thousands of our area children will have better, more nutritious summers."

Support for the feeding program is part of Walmart's Summer Giving Campaign, a \$20 million initiative aimed at filling the gaps created when schools close for the summer. The initiative will help expand nutrition, learning & employment services to children throughout the summer months. The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.), in partnership with the National Recreation While many children look forward to the summer break, recent research shows that health may decline in children during the summer due to lower levels of physical activity & lack of access to healthy meals.

Only one in seven of the low-income students who depended on the National School Lunch Program during the regular 2010-2011 school year received summer meals in July 2011, according to a report released by the Food Research & Action Center in June 2012.

"Park & recreation agencies are on the frontline in the fight to reduce hunger, especially among children," says Barbara Tulipane, president & CEO of NRPA. "The generous gift from the Walmart Foundation will help our local champions provide nutritious meals for millions of children & support the development of a healthy, connected & active generation of Americans."

For the third year, NRPA has awarded grants to park & recreation agencies for feeding programs that have served more than 16 million meals to low-income children, an increase of 3.7 million meals over 2009 figures.

The Summer Food Service Program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, administered through the Texas Department of Agriculture, & has been sponsored by the Houston Parks & Recreation Department since 1984. Between June 4 & August 17, 2012, a period when children will lose access to free meals supplied by their schools, the program will distribute free lunches & snacks to children ages 1 – 18 at more than 400 locations across the city.

For more information on NRPA's summer feeding support, visit www.nrpa.org/feeding or contact Jimmy O'Connor, senior manager of corporate grants, at joconnor@nrpa.org. For additional information on

how Walmart is bringing its commitment to hunger relief to life this summer, visit <http://www.walmartfoundation.org>.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart & the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart & 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, & health & wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit <http://www.walmartfoundation.org>.

About the National Recreation & Park Association

The National Recreation & Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation & conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation & park professionals & citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, & conservation of natural & cultural resources.

For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

About the Houston Parks & Recreation Department

The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards & manages over 38,752 acres of parkland & greenspace for the City of Houston & develops & implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.