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## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FREE Meal Program Fills Gap For Students All Summer Long**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will fill the Summer Lunch Gap that exists when school ends for the summer by providing **FREE** nutritional lunches to youth ages 1 to 18. HPARD coordinates the federally funded program at 400 sites throughout Houston. The program runs from May 29 through August 17. Meals are served on weekdays only.

Participating sites include Churches, HPARD community centers, learning centers, apartment complexes, schools, and other non-profit groups. Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Snacks are served from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Summer Food Service locations can be found by calling 2-1-1 and providing the operator with a zip code. The operator will locate the closest program to that zip code for the caller.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has sponsored the Summer Food Program for youth since 1984. In 2006, a total of 1,300,000 meals were served. The Summer Food Program is a federally funded program coordinated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission-Special Nutrition Programs.

For more information on the Summer Food Program or on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 845-1135 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).