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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HPARD Summer Food Service Fills Lunch Gap For Thousands**

Starting July 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 17 Houston's Children have a place to go for their summer lunch. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department Summer Food Service Program is providing FREE lunches and snacks for youth, ages 1 – 18, at over 350 sites across the city. 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.

Participating sites include Churches, HPARD community centers, learning centers, apartment complexes 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.

Since 1984, HPARD has coordinated this federally funded program to ensure that Houston youngsters have access to a FREE lunch and snack on a daily basis throughout the summer. The program is coordinated through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission-Special Nutrition Programs to make up the summer shortfall in child nutrition programs, when children who receive lunches through their schools often go hungry. A daily average of 23,000 lunches and snacks is served, which represents a small percentage of the approximately 400,000 children eligible for the program.

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