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## Press Release

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### **Houston Parks and Recreation Department Receives \$35,000 from the Walmart Foundation to Assist with Summer Food Service Program**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department and the Houston Parks Board have received a \$35,000 contribution to assist with the Summer Food Service Program. The grant, which was given to the agency through the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program, will work to alleviate childhood hunger in Houston.

"With this grant from the Walmart Foundation, HPARD's Summer Food Service Program will be able to provide thousands of free lunches to hungry children," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We appreciate the generosity of the Foundation, and look forward to kicking off this year's program in June."

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has sponsored the Summer Food Service Program since 1984. The program provides free, nutritious lunches and snacks to children ages 1 through 18 at hundreds of sites across the Greater Houston area. It fills a nutrition gap left by the close of the school year, when the free lunch program administered by local school districts ends.

"The Walmart Foundation is very pleased to be supporting the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and its Summer Food Service Program," said Meghan Allen, Houston media relations representative for Walmart. "Through this grant, we are hopeful that residents in the State of Texas will benefit from free lunches in the Houston area."

The contribution to the Summer Food Service Program was made possible through the Walmart Foundation's Texas State Giving Program. Through this program, the Walmart Foundation supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better. The Walmart Foundation State Giving Program strives to award grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact on communities across the U.S.

In 2010 in Texas, Walmart, Sam's Club locations and the Walmart Foundation awarded more than \$53.4 million to local organizations. Through additional funds donated by customers and Walmart and Sam's Club associates throughout the state, the retailer's contributions in Texas totaled more than \$61.3 million.

To be considered for support, prospective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program's online grant application. Applicants must have a current 501c(3) tax-exempt status in order to meet the program's minimum eligibility criteria. In this case, the Houston Parks Board is acting as fiscal agent. Additional information about the program's funding guidelines and application process are available online at [www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving](http://www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving).

#### ***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).

***About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department***

*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).*