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PRESS RELEASE

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The Walmart Foundation Awards \$25,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast *Young Members Provided Healthy Snacks in Afterschool Program and During Summer*

Gulfport, MS – Proper nutrition is vital for children to succeed in school and in life, and summer months can often pose a challenge as families struggle to feed their kids without the food programs provided by schools. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast is one of 400 Clubs across the country to receive a grant from the Walmart Foundation to help feed young members healthy snacks during the summer and afterschool program.

Nationally, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Walmart Foundation helped ease the burden for families this summer by providing an estimated 3 million healthy meals and snacks to Club members across the U.S. as part of a \$3.4 million grant from the Walmart Foundation. Walmart recently committed \$2 billion to hunger relief efforts as part of its Fighting Hunger Together initiative.

"Families are struggling to meet basic needs, leaving many young people in a state of very low food security," says Greg Gipson, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast. "This Healthy Servings grant will help the Club recharge and re-energize its young members with healthy snacks after they leave the classroom."

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast has also partnered with the Culinary Learning Center which provides culinary students to prepare the healthy snacks for the members in the Club's kitchens. The food purchased through the grant is prepared and presented to the members in a teaching style. "Our goal with this program is to not only provide a healthy alternative to junk food, but to show the youth how simple it is to prepare something nutritious and delicious," commented Tawana Banks, Volunteer Coordinator, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast.

For additional information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast please contact Michelle Wilson or visit our website at www.bgcgulfcoast.org.

To learn more about Walmart's \$2 billion commitment to help end hunger in America, visit www.walmart.com/fightinghunger.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast

In 2009, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast had approximately 2500 registered members and served 1400 youth through the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast New Hope Program, which is a school based therapeutic behavioral facilitation program. Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

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