



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI



**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**The Walmart Foundation Awards \$37,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of  
West Central Missouri**

*Young Members Return to School after Eating Healthy Snacks and Meals during Summer*

**SEDALIA, MO** – October 15, 2010 – 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. The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri is one of 400 Clubs across the country that received \$12,000 from the Walmart Foundation to help feed young Members during its summer program. But, it didn't just end with summer program assistance, the Club also received a \$25,000 Walmart Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) stipend to support the Healthy Habits program in providing nutritious foods to Club members throughout the academic year.

Nationally, Boys & Girls Club 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.

There is no question that proper nutrition is vital for children's development. Summer poses a challenge for kids who are eligible for free and reduced lunches during the school year but don't have access to healthy food when they're not attending classes. Staff members at Boys & Girls Clubs have seen dramatic increases in the number of young people who arrive at Clubs hungry as families struggle to provide for their children during the tough economic times.

“Families are struggling to meet basic needs, leaving many young people in a state of very low food security,” said Brett Barth-Fagan, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri. “The Healthy Servings grants and the CACFP grant play a key role in helping the Club recharge and re-energize its young members with healthy snacks and meals.”

Nationwide, 61 percent of Boys & Girls Club members qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture website, “Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents. For the period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$28,665 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$40,793.”

In the Sedalia schools the Club serves, Heber Hunt Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Skyline Elementary, Sedalia Middle School and Washington Elementary, 68.83 percent of the kids attending these schools qualified for free or reduced lunch prices during the 2009 school year. At the Washington Elementary school, 89.7 percent of the kids qualified for free or reduced lunch prices in 2009 which is up by 9.1 percent from 2007.

“Eating a healthy meal is vital to the development of children, and during the summer there are kids who go hungry because they don’t have access to healthy food when they aren’t in school,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “We are committed to fighting hunger and ensuring young people are getting the healthy meals they need.”

The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri serves youth from 6 to 18 years of age by providing guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. The Club currently serves 2,220 members in 22 site programs, serving 6 communities and 3 counties in west central Missouri.

For more information call 660.826.8331, toll-free 877.242.9260, find the Club online at [www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com), check out the Club’s Facebook page [www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627) or follow the Club on Twitter [bgckids](http://bgckids).

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### **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](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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

### **About the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri**

*Realizing Potential: Our Children, Our Community, Our Future*

In June 2010, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri ([www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com)) started celebrating 50 years of providing hope and opportunity to local communities by inspiring all youth to BE GREAT. The Club started in 1960 when a group of local optimists saw the need for positive youth programming and 50 years later the Club continues to positively impact lives by helping youth reach their full potential as productive and caring citizens. The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri serves youth from 6 to 18 years of age by providing guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. The Club currently serves 2,220 members in 22 site programs, serving 6 communities and 3 counties in west central Missouri. For more information call 660.826.8331, toll-free 877.242.9260, find the Club online at [www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com), check out the Club's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627) or follow the Club on Twitter [bgckids](https://twitter.com/bgckids).