



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE:**

**April 13, 2020 | Minneapolis, MN**

**YMCA, LOAVES & FISHES AND UNITEDHEALTH GROUP PARTNER TO PROVIDE FREE FRESH FOOD FOR HEALTHY MEALS TO FAMILIES DURING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS**

Minneapolis, MN (April 13, 2020): YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, a leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, is partnering with Loaves & Fishes and UnitedHealth Group to provide free, fresh food to families in the community to ensure youth have healthy meals during unprecedented pandemic.

The Y, Loaves & Fishes and UnitedHealth Group believe that supplying healthy fresh food is critical to supporting families in our communities to alleviate food insecurity and hunger. Together they combine the YMCA region-wide distribution network, Loaves & Fishes internationally recognized program, and UnitedHealth Group efforts to cover the more than \$2 million in food costs and wages for the cafeteria employees preparing meals for people in the Greater Twin Cities.

Families may pick up food from Noon – 2 p.m., Monday through Friday at select YMCAs and choose a meal package for a family of four including a protein, vegetables and other fresh food. Also, lunch bags with a sandwich, snacks and fruit are available. YMCA membership is not required. Supplies are limited. Please practice social distancing when picking up food.

“Our phones have been ringing non-stop and we have identified that there is great need in cities where we really need to be. Serving at the YMCA Twin Cities is a relationship that expands our reach and we could not be more grateful. Our goal has always been to serve those in need and together we are doing just that” said Cathy Maes, Loaves and Fishes MN Executive Director.

“We are grateful to partner with Loaves & Fishes and UnitedHealth Group to ensure all of our families in our community have access to food during this very difficult time and no child goes hungry,” said Glen Gunderson, president and CEO of the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities.

For more information on the YMCA food distribution locations, go to:

[www.ymcamn.org/food-distribution](http://www.ymcamn.org/food-distribution) .

The Y is committed to ensuring all in the community have the resources they need to navigate the impact coronavirus is having on people’s lives. For more information on the YMCA Community Response Hub, visit [www.ymcamn.org/impact-summary](http://www.ymcamn.org/impact-summary). To support Y programs

and services for youth, families, adults and seniors, visit Y Community Response Fund at [www.ymcamn.org/give](http://www.ymcamn.org/give).

**WHO:** The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, Loaves & Fishes, and UnitedHealth Group

**WHAT:** To ensure youth and their families have nutritious meals during the coronavirus crisis, the community can get free fresh food at select YMCA locations

**WHERE:** Front doorways of designated YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities locations. See [www.ymcamn.org/food-distribution](http://www.ymcamn.org/food-distribution) for a full list of locations.

**WHEN:** Noon – 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### **About the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities**

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities is a leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Established 164 years ago, the Ys provide life-strengthening services across the greater Twin Cities metro region, southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin communities. The 29 Y locations and program sites, eight overnight camps, 10 day camps, and more than 90 child care sites engage more than 370,000 men, women and children of all ages, incomes and backgrounds. To learn more about the Y's mission and work, visit [www.ymcamn.org](http://www.ymcamn.org).

### **About Loaves and Fishes**

Loaves and Fishes has been serving Minnesotans since 1982. Today, we provide thousands of meals daily via multi-faceted programming across the state: public dining with social service advocacy, student meals and snacks, street outreach, a free produce market, and The HUB – an affordable fresh food option for small community meal programs and nonprofits. To support our meal services, we source fresh produce creatively and operate an environmentally responsible rescue program that captures wasted food from partnering restaurants, school cafeterias and businesses. Our holistic recipe for success is predicated on the belief that food is medicine and a basic human right, serving just any kind of food to people in need is unsatisfactory as well as costly to individuals and communities, and proper nutrition opens the door to opportunity. To learn more about Loaves & Fishes, visit [www.loavesandfishesmn.org](http://www.loavesandfishesmn.org).

### **About UnitedHealth Group**

UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) is a diversified health care company dedicated to helping people live healthier lives and helping to make the health system work better for everyone. UnitedHealth Group offers a broad spectrum of products and services through two distinct platforms: UnitedHealthcare, which provides health care coverage and benefits services; and Optum, which provides information and technology-enabled health services. For more information, visit UnitedHealth Group at [www.unitedhealthgroup.com](http://www.unitedhealthgroup.com) or follow @UnitedHealthGrp on Twitter.