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North Georgia Community YMCA Receives \$5,000 Donation from Publix .

[Chattanooga, Tenn., February 25, 2022] – The North Georgia Community YMCA recently received a \$5,000 donation from Publix Super Markets Charities for its Backpack Blessings Program.

The Backpack Blessings program provides nutritious, non-perishable food items to students each Friday to reduce weekend hunger and help students prepare for Monday's learning in the classroom. The program is supported through a partnership with schools, volunteers, grants and individual donors, serving children throughout Walker and Catoosa Counties each school year.

In 2021, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga prepared and served 575,532 meals across 80 area sites. During 2021, the Backpack Blessings Program in North Georgia, prepared 9,112 healthy meals, engaging 167 volunteers.

More information on Backpack Blessings, including a complete list of schools served and meal/deliver schedule can be found at <https://www.ymcachattanooga.org/programs/community/backpack-blessings>.

Shown in the attached photo is **John Donahoo**, Executive Director for the North Georgia Community YMCA, Walker County Superintendent **Damon Raines** (in the background), and individuals from Walker County Advancing Education Center at a recent meal packing session.

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About the Y

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga is 150 years old and today serves more than 60,000 members—strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Its programs reach 120 area locations and serve 12 counties throughout Southeast TN and North GA. Locally, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga provides \$1.2 million in Financial Assistance each year so that all can be given the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. Nationally, across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 22 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background. The Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they are from, by ensuring access to resources, relationships, and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations, the Y's goal is to improve overall health and well-being, ignite youth empowerment and demonstrate the importance of connections in and across 10,000 communities nationwide. ymca.net www.ymcachattanooga.org