



YMCA OF METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2018

Four-Time All-Star and NBA Champion Pau Gasol to Visit Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA to Announce Gasol Foundation Partnership with YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles

WHAT: Gasol Foundation and YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles (LA Y) will host a special event for children at Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA to celebrate their new collaboration that tackles childhood obesity. This effort is part of the LA Y's Urban Initiative, which strengthens Los Angeles' most underserved and under-resourced urban neighborhoods by addressing pressing academic and community needs.

Gasol Foundation will complement YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles' Summer Day Camp curriculum with a new program for youth ages 5-13. Following the Gasol Foundation approach to preventing Childhood Obesity through a shared community commitment, this program will be a coordinated effort in which children, their caregivers and camp counselors will collectively learn to promote healthy habits.

With future plans to expand into all 26 LA Y's, this summer the program will be launched at Weingart YMCA Wellness & Aquatic Center (serving Florence, Watts and Harbor Gateway), Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA (serving East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights), Southeast-Rio Vista YMCA (serving Maywood, Vernon, and Huntington Park), and Crenshaw Family YMCA (serving Crenshaw, Baldwin Hills and Leimert Park).

WHEN: Monday, April 2, 2018; 5:00 - 7:00 PM

WHERE: Weingart East Los Angeles Family YMCA
2900 Whittier Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90023

WHY: Through this partnership, Gasol Foundation and the Y hope to reverse the growing epidemic of childhood obesity, one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century, which affects 42 million children worldwide. As 70 million children will be overweight or obese by 2025, it could be the first generation of youth that live less than their parents.

"Leisure time activities are the best approach to motivating children towards healthy habits," explained Gasol Foundation Co-Founder Pau Gasol. "Through Gasol Foundation's motto, 'Make It Healthy, Make It Fun,' we will introduce children into the metaphor of a healthy galaxy where they'll discover the four key planets of health: sports and physical activity, healthy eating, duration and quality of sleep and emotional well-being. We are extremely honored and proud to partner with the Y, so together we'll provide the tools necessary to empower the camp participants and their families to be healthier in their daily lives."

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“Tackling the epidemic of childhood obesity is not an easy challenge, especially in Los Angeles’ most underserved neighborhoods,” continued Alan C. Hostrup, President & CEO of YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. “Through its ‘Zero Childhood Obesity’ programs driven by two of the NBA’s most formidable players, Pau and Marc Gasol, we couldn’t ask for a better partner than the Gasol Foundation to address this important issue. I am excited to see how our children and their families flourish through our combined efforts.”

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About Gasol Foundation

Pau and Marc Gasol are brothers, Olympians, and All-Star NBA athletes who are committed to making a difference when it comes to children's health. Together, they founded Gasol Foundation in 2013, a non-profit organization that works to reduce Childhood Obesity rates and focuses all its energy and resources on promoting and transmitting healthy lifestyles amongst today's youth through our programs, activities, and initiatives both in Spain and the United States. Through the promotion of physical activity and sport, healthy eating, sleep quality, the emotional wellbeing of children and the key involvement of family and educators, our programs promote children's knowledge, attitudes and habits for their full development. For more information visit www.gasolfoundation.org.

About YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles

YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles (LA Y) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening communities by supporting youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Welcoming individuals of all ages, faiths and backgrounds, the Y is committed to nurturing everyone's potential in spirit, mind and body. No one is turned away membership due to the inability to pay. Serving Los Angeles since 1882, the LA Y is comprised of 26 branches and three resident camps that stretch across 150 miles of Los Angeles County. Through unique programs and services, YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles provides more than a quarter million families each year with the tools and encouragement to learn, grow and thrive. For more information, visit www.ymcaLA.org.

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