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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**'I Love Food: Making Missouri More Delicious' event to be held at Hilton Garden Inn and  
Farmers Market of the Ozarks**

*The Ozarks Regional YMCA and its community partners are holding an event to celebrate and highlight local food happenings in our area.*

On September 12, 2014, the Ozarks Regional YMCA will host the 'I Love Food: Making Missouri More Delicious' event at Hilton Garden Inn from 8:00am – 4:00pm. The event will feature opening remarks by Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce President Jeff Shrag celebrating all things local, a PechaKucha style series of speakers, each representing a part of the food system, and a featured keynote speaker. The event will wrap up in the afternoon where a group of local foodies and organizations that support local deliciousness will gather at Farmers Market of the Ozarks. For a complete list of event speakers and registration information, please see attached conference invitation.

Our featured keynote speaker is Yael Lehmann, Executive Director of the Food Trust from Philadelphia, PA. Yael directs a range of innovative programs to increase access to affordable healthy food in underserved communities and ensure that children and adults have the knowledge to make healthy food choices. During her tenure, Yael has overseen the growth of the agency's farmers' markets, nutrition education programs, food retail development initiatives, and other programs to make healthy food available to all. "I am so excited to be in Springfield to learn more about all of the wonderful local food options that are available to the community, and I look forward to working with the Y and their community partners to identify more ways to make good food available to all Missouri residents."

To learn more about the Ozarks Regional YMCA and the I Love Food: Making Missouri More Delicious event, call or e-mail Stephanie Smith (417) 862-8962 x 2131 / [ssmith@orymca.org](mailto:ssmith@orymca.org) or visit [orymca.org](http://orymca.org).

*The Ozarks Regional YMCA has served the community for over 124 years and has over 20,000 members in the association and hopes to engage more people in the communities it serves whether it is as a member, volunteer, supporter or advocate. To learn more about our program, branches, and how you can get involved, visit [orymca.org](http://orymca.org), or join us on Facebook. Ozarks Regional YMCA consists of nine branches including, The Ozark Mountain Branch in Hollister, Bolivar/Dallas County, Monett/Cassville, Camp Wakonda, Lebanon family YMCA, Child Care branches and two facilities in Springfield.*

