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Contact: William Wertz  
303-832-0467

## **Walmart Commits \$2 Billion to Help End Hunger in the U.S.**

### ***Ohio Families to Benefit from Walmart's Multi-Year Commitment of More than 1 Billion Meals in Response to Growing Hunger Need***

**(Columbus, Ohio) May 12, 2010** – Walmart and the Walmart Foundation announced a \$2 billion cash and in-kind commitment today, stepping up efforts to help end hunger in America, including more than 37 million donated meals to food banks across Ohio.

The new five-year initiative, "Fighting Hunger Together," includes four key components:

- **Donating more than 1.1 billion pounds of food** from Walmart stores, distribution centers and Sam's Club locations, valued at \$1.75 billion.  
*Benefiting food banks in Ohio include: Freestore Foodbank, Cincinnati; Cleveland Foodbank, Cleveland; Mid-Ohio FoodBank, Grove City; Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Akron; The Foodbank, Inc., Dayton; Shared Harvest Foodbank, Fairfield; Huntington Area Food Bank, Inc. Huntington, WV; Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern Ohio; Second Harvest Foodbank of Clark, Champaign and Logan Counties, Springfield; Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, Toledo; Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, Lorain; Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley, Youngstown; and West Ohio Food Bank, Lima.*
- **Grants totaling \$250 million** to support hunger relief organizations at the national, state and local levels;
- **Mobilizing Walmart associates and customers.** For example, Walmart's logistics team will lend their expertise to help food banks become more efficient in their operations; and
- **Collaboration with government, food manufacturers and other corporations** that are fighting hunger to increase impact and reach a greater number of families in need.

According to a November 2009 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report, hunger rates in the U.S. are the highest since 1995 with nearly 15 percent of households lacking access to an adequate supply of nutritious food. Walmart expects its cash and in-kind gifts of fresh produce, meat, dairy and other foods to provide more than 1 billion meals to these needy families.

"Increasingly, we see opportunities to use our scale and reach to solve challenges in our communities. This is one of those times," said Eduardo Castro-Wright, Walmart's vice chairman. "By working together, we believe we can reach a day where no individual in this country has to go to bed hungry or worry if there will be food to put on the table tomorrow."

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Castro-Wright announced the company's plans on Capitol Hill today, joined by USDA Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon; Senate Hunger Caucus Co-Chairwoman Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark.; House Hunger Caucus Co-Chairmen Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.; Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo.; Rep. John Boozman, R-Ark.; and Terry Shannon, president and CEO of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance in Phoenix – the first food bank in the U.S.

"The economic downturn has hit Ohioans hard and our food banks are experiencing a greater need than ever before. That's why Walmart's generous contribution is so timely and important," Ohio Governor Ted Strickland said. "We appreciate Walmart's unprecedented commitment to assist those who are hungry by providing greater access to nutritious food. In doing so, Walmart is also demonstrating the critical role that corporate partners have in supporting the non-profit community."

Today, the Walmart Foundation announced the first grants as part of this commitment:

- Donations totaling \$8 million will help U.S. food banks improve capacity. This includes \$6 million to purchase 60 refrigerated trucks for Feeding America food banks. Added to the 69 previously donated by Walmart, the trucks will help ensure that each food bank can safely transport donations from Walmart stores and other grocers.
- Donations totaling \$10 million will help ensure that children across the U.S. are fed healthy meals during the school year and summer months. For example, \$2 million will support the National Parks and Recreation Association's summer feeding program and provide 2 million meals for U.S. children.

These and other efforts are designed to help improve the efficiency of the U.S. food bank system, make nutritious food more accessible and provide long-term solutions to eradicating hunger.

"Walmart's powerful commitment to end hunger in America is backed up by an equally powerful financial commitment," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks (OASHF). "For Ohio, this support couldn't come at a more critical time. In just the first three months of 2010, Ohio food pantries served more than 1.6 million Ohioans, and did so with five million fewer pounds of food than the quarter before. More Ohioans are having to choose between food and health care or food and housing or other essentials. With this tremendous donation, Walmart continues to help meet the hunger challenge and in doing so, may inspire more public and private support as well."

Walmart will help each of its 1.4 million U.S. associates and the 140 million customers who shop its stores every week find opportunities to support food banks, senior meal delivery programs and other hunger relief organizations in their communities. More details on how customers can get involved will be announced this summer.

Last year, when high levels of unemployment placed greater demands on U.S. food banks, Walmart doubled its food donations, providing 81 million more pounds of food than the prior year. The company's contributions made up 45 percent of donations from retailers to Feeding America food banks. The company also helped to feed more than 93,000 children in 2009 through a donation to the Boys and Girls Club of America's summer feeding program.

According to Hamler-Fugitt, Walmart has been an important supporter of the OASHF beyond its financial contributions. Walmart has made significant in-kind contributions such as trucks and equipment and Walmart associates regularly volunteer at food banks throughout Ohio.

For more information, including a state-by-state list of Walmart's planned food donations over the next five years or to find local volunteer opportunities, visit [www.walmartgiving.com](http://www.walmartgiving.com).

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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).

*\*Editor's Note: According to the USDA, 1.28 pounds of food is equivalent to one meal. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation expect cash and in-kind donations to help U.S. food banks deliver 1.4 billion pounds of food to food banks by the end of 2015 – the equivalent of more than 1 billion meals.*