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Walmart Foundation's California State Giving Program Gives \$120,000 in Grants to Los Angeles County Nonprofits

Grants Will Support Youth, Homeless Families and Emergency Assistance Resources

LOS ANGELES, Calif., August 17, 2010 – The Walmart Foundation's California State Giving Program today announced \$120,000 in grants to Los Angeles County nonprofits: Upward Bound House, Foothill Unity Center, El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association and Ettie Lee Youth and Family Services. The grants will support community programs focused on reaching out to homeless families, at-risk youth and emergency assistance resources.

"The Walmart Foundation's California State Giving Program supports community organizations focused on helping people live better lives, and we are proud to support the unique community outreach programs in Los Angeles County," said Kimberly Sentovich, Senior Vice President of the Pacific Division for Walmart. "While families continue to face the harsh realities of this economy, we are thrilled to partner with organizations meeting these challenges head on."

A \$45,000 grant to the **Upward Bound House Family Place** will support the placement of 21 families in a six to nine month long program providing housing, job training and financial literacy workshops with the goal of retaining permanent housing. The grant will directly fund supplies for activities; general program expenses; and support compensation for case managers who serve on the frontlines of working with families to find the root of their chronic homelessness.

"As homelessness continues to increase at a dramatic rate, we are finding more families looking for opportunities to change their lives for the better," said David Snow, Executive Director of the Upward Bound House. "We appreciate the Walmart Foundation and its support to provide the opportunity to make that possible with this unique intensive program."

The \$25,000 grant to **Foothill Unity Center** will augment purchasing for their Back to School Distribution program, which is anticipated to provide over 2,000 boys and girls ages five to 17 with clothes, school supplies, special needs equipment and haircuts. This program is focused on assisting low-income families in need.

"It is amazing how the community rallies around this project," said Joan Whitenack, Executive Director of Foothill Unity Center. "We are so appreciative to have the Walmart Foundation play an instrumental role in the success of these children."

The Walmart Foundation granted \$25,000 to the **El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association** (ERA), which serves nearly 19,000 clients a year in need by providing funds for rent, food, transportation, bereavement costs and clothing. The grant will support the organization's various resources provided to clients, which include emergency food assistance to nearly 400 people a week and federal funding for rent assistance case management.

"When we heard the Walmart Foundation was granting us with this miracle, we were beyond words," said Lilian Rey, Executive Director of ERA. "With an annual budget of \$230,000, this grant will be instrumental in making sure our clients are served to the best of our ability."

Ettie Lee Youth and Family Services (ELYFS) will use the Walmart Foundation's \$25,000 grant to support customized education for 72 incoming at-risk teenage males and working toward the construction of an instructional cafeteria. The Opportunities for Learning Charter School housed in the ELYFS Pomona facility which

focuses on academic accomplishment and behavioral adjustment through individualized learning and interventions.

“The students at the on-grounds school will be able to learn not just important lessons in the classroom, but with the new cafeteria that the Walmart Foundation’s grant will help fund, these young men will also learn real life skills--the advantages of teamwork and the gratification of doing a job well done,” said Clayton Downey, President and CEO of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services. “While the school continues to grow, we are excited to form this partnership with Walmart and the Walmart Foundation in creating a path for future success.”

To date, in 2010, the Walmart Foundation’s California State Giving Program has given a total of \$615,000 in grants to California non-profits including: The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County; Atascadero Loaves & Fishes; California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom; Boys & Girls Club of Redlands; San Diego Food Bank; North County Health Project; and Mama’s Kitchen.

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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.

**Ed. Note: Walmart operates Foundations in the U.S., Brazil, Mexico and the United Kingdom. In addition to its Foundation giving, Walmart makes charitable contributions locally in every community where it operates.*

About Upward Bound House

Upward Bound House is a community-based 501 (c) (3) nonprofit social service agency headquartered in Santa Monica, California. The mission of Upward Bound House is to eliminate homelessness among families with children in Los Angeles by providing housing, supportive services and advocacy. Since 1997, more than 1,100 individuals – including over 650 children – have graduated from Upward Bound House and are no longer homeless. For more information about Upward Bound House, please visit www.upwardboundhouse.org.

About the Foothill Unity Center

Foothill Unity Center provides a range of services unparalleled not only in the San Gabriel Valley, but across Los Angeles County. Operating with a small staff and a corps of dedicated volunteers, the nonprofit, nondenominational organization distributed over four million pounds of food to 3,974 unduplicated very low-income families last year. It also provides clothing, limited motel vouchers, and referrals to the homeless and people in crisis. Clients meet stringent income guidelines and are re-qualified annually. Over 94% of every dollar goes to program. For more information, call the Center at (626) 358-3486.

About the El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association

The mission of the El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association shall be to prevent homelessness, maintain stability by providing the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter for families and individuals in times of crisis. Initiated and incorporated in 1956 by a group of concerned citizens of the El Monte area who recognized the increasing number of people in need of emergency assistance.

About the Ettie Lee Youth and Family Services

Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services is a nonprofit child welfare agency serving the complex needs of at-risk youth who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Its mission is to assist troubled youth who are in need of guidance and support to develop values and skills that will facilitate their success in life. Ettie Lee complies with the highest standards of Community Care Licensing, Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services, and Los Angeles County Department of Probation. Ettie Lee is accredited by the California Alliance for Children & Families and the Council on Accreditation.