Walmart and Walmart Foundation Give Over $387,000 to Colorado Charities in September during Hunger Action Month

Denver, Colo. – September 21, 2017 - As part of Walmart’s commitment to fight hunger in Colorado, the Walmart Foundation invited local nonprofits with hunger relief programs to apply for grants of between $25,000 and $200,000 last May. Now, during Hunger Action Month, Walmart recognizes these Colorado nonprofit organizations that received a total of over $387,000 to address hunger issues in our communities with check presentations at local Walmart stores.

The Colorado grants are as follows:
$50,000: Project Angel Heart, Denver, CO
$25,750: Longmont Meals on Wheels, Inc., Longmont, CO
$32,000: Food Bank for Larimer County, Fort Collins, CO
$50,000: Weld Food Bank, Greeley, CO
$75,000: Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, Inc., Colorado Springs, CO
$25,000: Westside Cares, inc., Colorado Springs CO
$35,000: LaPuente Home Incorporated, Alamosa, CO
$95,000: Colorado Farm to Table, Inc., Salida, CO

“Fighting hunger is a goal everyone at Walmart and the Walmart Foundation has set in our communities. That’s why we couldn’t be more thrilled to be giving grants to such worthy nonprofits truly making a difference for families who need it the most,” said Christopher Bergquist, Walmart Regional Marketing Manager. “We know as the nation’s largest grocer, we are uniquely positioned to lead on the issue of hunger in our neighborhoods and we’re proud to be doing just that with these grants.”

The eight nonprofit organizations will use their grants in all corners of the state for various hunger relief programs. For example, Project Angel Heart is using their grant to prepare and deliver more meals, each tailored to meet the unique dietary needs of individual clients, pay for meal packaging materials and help with chef salaries. Overall, the grant helps them achieve their goal of providing life-saving, medically tailored meals to men, women, and children living with serious illnesses.

“Hunger is a problem in our communities, but it’s an especially big problem for people living with chronic disease. In fact, a staggering one in three people living with chronic illness is forced to choose between purchasing food or their medication,” said Erin Pulling, President & CEO of Project Angel Heart. “We’re grateful to Walmart for supporting Project Angel Heart and for making it possible to prepare and deliver life-saving meals to more than 2,900 Coloradans living with life-threatening diagnoses this year.”

Longmont Meals on Wheels delivers hot, nutritious meals to the homes of seniors and people with disabilities in Longmont, Lyons, Hygiene, Niwot and the surrounding rural areas. They don’t just prepare and deliver meals; they also visit with and check on isolated homebound individuals. The Walmart grant will enable Longmont Meals on Wheels to subsidize the discrepancy between what a meal with support services costs and what their clients are able to pay.

“Supporting Longmont Meals on Wheels is becoming more critical as more and more seniors are struggling to make ends meet and as the population of seniors grows,” said Karla Hale, Executive Director of
Longmont Meals of Wheels. “In Colorado the number of seniors facing the threat of hunger has increased since the beginning of the recession to more than one in seven. Also from 2015 to 2025, Boulder County’s senior population is expected to grow 61% with the majority of seniors in this county living in Longmont.”

The Walmart Foundation’s grant to the Food Bank for Larimer County provides more than 152,000 meals and snacks throughout the year to recipients in need.

“This grant from the Walmart Foundation is a tremendous benefit to the Food Bank for Larimer County and our Kids Cafe program,” said Amy Pezzani. CEO of the Food Bank for Larimer County. “Our retail partners are at the core of what we do, and Walmart - through food donations and its grant process - helps the Food Bank continue its mission of providing nutritious food to those in need.”

Weld Food Bank is using their grant to purchase healthy, perishable foods to distribute by their Mobile Food Pantry program. This includes fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products and baked goods. Weld Food Bank is committed to the success of the Mobile Food Pantry program, which serves the low-income communities of Weld County where fresh fruits and vegetables are not readily accessible. At this time this includes 13 communities - many of which have been identified by the U.S.D.A. as food deserts.

"We are very grateful to receive this grant from the Walmart Foundation," said Bob O’Connor, Executive Director of Weld Food Bank. “Walmart and their local stores have been incredibly generous through years of support of our retail food rescue program and their financial giving. We would not be able to help so many of our neighbors struggling with hunger without partners like Walmart behind us every step of the way.”

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, Inc. will use their $75,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to purchase a new refrigerated truck to pick up and drop off food donations to and from their soup kitchen located in Colorado Springs, where they serve over 216,000 meals a year to needy families and individuals.

“Catholic Charities is humbled to receive this generous grant to purchase a refrigerated truck to pick up food donations for our Marian House Soup Kitchen,” said Andy Barton, CEO of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado. “The Walmart Foundation’s generosity will ensure that we can continue to serve meals to those most in need in our community for years to come.”

Westside CARES in El Paso County will use their Walmart Foundation grant to support their six food pantries, which provide healthy, four-day food baskets year-round to neighbors in need.

“Walmart and Walmart Foundation’s generous support of Westside CARES’ food pantries helps us provide more than 24,000 four-day food baskets to neighbors on the west-side of Colorado Springs and beyond,” said Kristy Milligan, CEO of Westside CARES. “Their investment in our community makes a tremendous difference for the most economically fragile of our neighbors.”

One hundred percent of funding from the Walmart Foundation will be used by La Puente Home, Inc. to purchase non-perishable, nutrient dense food to help maintain a year-round supply of food for the 14 pantries in the Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley. The food will be purchased at a standard in line with our nutrition policy. Nutritionally focused food with low-sodium content, no added sugar, low in fat, and made with whole wheat ingredients will be prioritized.
"We're beyond grateful to receive this award," said Lyndsey Williams, Director of San Luis Valley Food Bank Network. "Thanks to the Walmart Foundation, the Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley can continue to purchase healthy food for our neighbors who are faced with the impossible decision of putting food on the table for their families or paying essential bills like rent and utilities."

Colorado Farm To Table will use their grant to provide even more wholesome, fresh produce to their recipient partners across the state to supplement their food banks, pantries and soup kitchens for their clients. Benefits to the target population of the food insecure in Colorado are direct and simple: with the donation of 200,000 or more pounds of fresh produce, grown exclusively for those in need, the expected impacts of this program are greater access to wholesome food, a healthier target population, and a positive economic impact on their recipient clients’ bottom lines as they receive all of this produce from Colorado Farm to Table for free.

"We are where we are today because of the charitable support of Walmart," according to Tony Madone, Jr., Founder & Executive Director of Colorado Farm to Table. "Walmart Foundation’s generous support this year and the past several of years enables Colorado Farm To Table to engage in a pattern of forward thinking and planning, as well as building our capacity to provide future fresh produce to those in need across Colorado. This makes possible the realization of our mission to serve the hungry and food insecure of Colorado."

The USDA reports that 42 million people in America, including more than 13 million children, currently struggle with hunger. Walmart is committed to providing meals to those in need and helping ensure that every family has access to affordable, nutritious and sustainably-grown food. As the nation’s largest grocer, Walmart is uniquely positioned to lead on the issue of hunger in the communities it serves.

About Walmart and The Walmart Foundation in Colorado
In Colorado we serve customers at 110 retail units and online through Walmart.com and Jet.com. We are proud to employ 28,016 associates in Colorado. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have committed to provide four billion meals between 2015 and 2020 to people in need. Walmart aims to reach this goal through grants to charitable organizations and hunger-relief programs, as well as through food donations from Walmart stores, Sam’s Clubs and distribution centers. In Colorado, during FY2017, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation helped local communities with $24 million in cash and in-kind donations to Colorado nonprofits, and Walmart donated over 12 million pounds of food, which is the equivalent of over 10 million meals. Click here to learn more about Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s commitments to fight hunger and provide nutrition education.

Learn more at the Walmart Today blog, and our Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram channels.

About Project Angel Heart
Project Angel Heart prepares and delivers medically tailored meals to men, women, and children living with serious illnesses including cancer, HIV/AIDS, kidney disease, and many more. The meals support recipients’ medical treatments, leading to improved overall health and quality of life. This year, more than 2,900 people in the Denver metro area and Colorado Springs will receive meal deliveries. For more information, visit www.projectangelheart.org.

About Longmont Meals on Wheels
Longmont Meals on Wheels' primary focus is to provide hot, nutritious meals and a daily check to older adults and people with disabilities that reside in the communities of Longmont and Niwot. This service helps them maintain their independence, health, and dignity. Longmont Meals on Wheels provides this service without any state or federal funding, thanks to the continued support of the community. Since 1969, we have been dedicated to serving those who cannot serve themselves.

About Food Bank for Larimer County
Founded in 1984, the Food Bank for Larimer County is the county’s only Feeding America clearinghouse for donated food. In 2016, the Food Bank provided enough food for 7.72 million meals through a variety of hunger-relief programs, including Food Share, Community Kitchen and Food Link. Food Share is a client-choice, fresh food pantry with locations in Fort Collins and Loveland that provides food to income qualifying individuals up to two times per week. Over 37,500 Larimer County residents received assistance through the Food Bank’s programs and partners last year. The Community Kitchen prepared meals and snacks for children through Kids Cafe and for seniors through a partnership with Volunteers of America. Additionally, the Food Link program provided food to nearly 90 non-profit organizations, including food pantries, soup kitchens and domestic violence shelters.

About Weld Food Bank
Weld Food Bank is a member of Feeding America and was founded in 1982. Weld Food Bank’s mission is to lead and engage our community in the fight against hunger. We distributed 13.9 million pounds of food last fiscal year through our over 80 nonprofit partner agencies and through seven direct service programs, which include Kids Cafe, Backpacks, School Food Pantries, Summer Feeding, Senior Outreach, Mobile Food Pantry, and Emergency Food Boxes. On average we serve over 58,000 individuals each year. For more info please visit www.weldfoodbank.org.

About Catholic Charities of Central Colorado
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, Inc. is the social service arm of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, serving 10 counties in Central Colorado. Incorporated in 1968, the human service agency will be celebrating 50 years of service to the community in 2018. Accredited by the Council on Accreditation, Catholic Charities Provides Help and Creates Hope for people who are poor and vulnerable by offering over 75 programs and services that help people develop resiliency while moving from crisis to stability. Learn more at CCharitiesCC.org.

About Westside CARES
Formed in 1984, Westside CARES is an ecumenical and interfaith, nonprofit collaboration of 22 religious fellowships of the west side of El Paso County, united in care and compassion for those in need by providing crisis human services. The only criterion for accessing services is an individual’s or family’s genuine need and their established residence within the agency’s service area. Westside CARES collaborates with agencies throughout the Colorado Springs metropolitan area to ensure its clients receive adequate crisis intervention services. The goal is an interdependent network of services between providers.

About La Puente Home, Inc.
La Puente is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving Colorado’s San Luis Valley by providing food, shelter, and advocacy for the homeless and community members in crisis. La Puente's Food Bank Network addresses hunger within the San Luis Valley region by providing nutritious food to families and individuals in need. While the primary mission is emergency food assistance, staff and volunteers work hard to support clients in making healthier choices by providing fresh produce and nourishing foods for those combating food insecurity on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.
About Colorado Farm to Table
Begun in 1996 by career farmer Tony Madone, Jr., Colorado Farm To Table’s fresh produce ends up, free of cost, on the tables of those who most need it, through the distribution assistance of our 37 current food bank, soup kitchen and food pantry partners across Colorado. Since 2005, the Farm has harvested more than 1,884,020 pounds — over 942 TONS! — of nutritious produce with the help of dozens of dedicated volunteers, on 20 donated acres in Salida, Colorado and every pound of it has been given to those in need.

# # #