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Contact: Misty Ridenour  
Senior Meals Program Coordinator  
Senior Meals  
(209) 593-5615  
mridenour@howardtrainingcenter.com

## **Walmart Foundation Grant to Meals On Wheels Association of America to Help Feed Hungry Seniors at Senior Meals**

*Grant received at critical time as economy threatens seniors in Stanislaus County*

**March 30, 2010, Modesto, CA** – Senior Meals has been awarded \$14,937 through a Walmart Foundation grant to the Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA). The money will provide Senior Meals with much-needed blast chiller, a refrigerator that cools large quantities of food in less than 90 minutes, which is critical to continue serving seniors in our neighborhoods.

This financial support is desperately needed as many Meals On Wheels programs across the country are struggling to survive during this economic downturn. The “Walmart Foundation Impact Grant” is intended to help Senior Meals continue to meet the long-term equipment needs of providing meals to our seniors in Stanislaus County.

Last year, many Meals On Wheels programs were forced to change or reduce their services, but the Walmart Foundation stepped in to help restore those meals. This year, the Walmart Foundation is spending more than \$2 million nationwide to make sure Meals On Wheels programs have the equipment they need to maintain their operations into the future.

“Seniors have been hit especially hard in this economy and we feel a responsibility to help,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “We’re proud to support Meals on Wheels programs across the U.S. who work on the front lines of ending senior hunger.”

“Thanks to the Walmart Foundation Impact Grant, we now have better tools to keep feeding seniors for years to come,” said Claudia Miller, Executive Director for Howard Training Center. “This grant will help us provide the next meal to many of our clients in need and will truly make a difference for the seniors of Stanislaus County.”

“The Walmart Foundation has once again stepped up to the plate as a powerful partner in the fight to end senior hunger,” said Enid Borden, president and CEO of MOWAA. “They are our largest corporate partner to date and their support will make a tremendous impact in helping our programs sustain meal services well into the future. We can’t thank the Walmart Foundation enough for joining us in our national movement to end senior hunger in America by 2020.”

Late last year MOWAA released a groundbreaking study revealing six million seniors in America face the risk of hunger. The report, entitled, “Senior Hunger in the United States: Differences across States and Rural and Urban Areas” was sponsored by MOWAA and shows that the number of seniors facing the hunger risk jumped an astonishing 20 percent in just one year. The Walmart Impact Grant Program is intended to help combat the problem of senior hunger.

Howard Training Center, a non-profit organization located in Modesto, offers congregate meals and home delivery through its Senior Meals Program. Fresh, hot meals are prepared and delivered daily to seniors at 13 sites throughout Stanislaus County. Seniors who are housebound, unable to drive or live alone are eligible for home delivered meals. For more information about the Senior Meals program, please call (209) 593-5615 or visit [www.howardtrainingcenter.com](http://www.howardtrainingcenter.com).

**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. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Walmart – and its domestic and international foundations – gave more than \$423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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