

Senior Meals Program Awarded Grant from Meals On Wheels Association of America and Wal-Mart Foundation to Cure Senior Hunger

Grant given at a time when program is struggling to feed Stanislaus County's seniors

February 19, 2009, Modesto, CA– Senior Meals has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) and the Wal-Mart Foundation to support our local program in doing what we do best - feed seniors.

This past year, many Meals On Wheels programs were forced to change or reduce their services because of severe operating constraints brought on by rising food and gas prices and the current economic crisis. The "MOWAA/Wal-Mart Foundation Cure Grant" is intended to alleviate these burdens for Senior Meals and help us restore our nutrition services to better serve our seniors in Stanislaus County.

"In 2008, so many Stanislaus County seniors requested assistance that we had to create a waiting list for meals," said Claudia Miller, Executive Director of Howard Training Center. "This grant will help to fill that gap, but as the economy continues to decline, we anticipate a greater need in 2009."

According to a groundbreaking national research study entitled "The Causes, Consequences and Future of Senior Hunger in America," which was commissioned by the MOWAA Foundation, 1 in 9 seniors in America is at risk of hunger. The fact that 11.4 percent of seniors in the country are at risk of hunger and the fact that the population is aging at an unprecedented rate put a significant strain on community-based Meals On Wheels programs' ability to provide meals for those in need. The "MOWAA/Wal-Mart Foundation Cure Grant Program" is intended to increase the number of individuals served and reverse the forced reduction in meal services seen at Meals On Wheels programs throughout the nation.

"Unlike cancer or AIDS, we have the cure to end senior hunger in America today," said Enid Borden, President and CEO of MOWAA. "We can't thank the Wal-Mart Foundation enough for supporting us in our mission and remembering the seniors we serve during this desperate time.

"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 12 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 Meal programs and programming for adults with disabilities, please call (209) 593-5615 or visit www.howardtrainingcenter.com.

The Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) is the oldest and largest national organization in the United States representing those programs that provide meals to people in need. To obtain more information about MOWAA or to locate a local Meals On Wheels program, visit the MOWAA website at www.mowaa.org.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart 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 Wal-Mart Foundation supports initiatives focused on enhancing opportunities in education, job skills training, sustainability and health and wellness. In 2007, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.