



Meals on Wheels
of Albuquerque



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Walmart Foundation Helps Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque Drive Away Hunger

Much-needed grant means a brighter future for local efforts to feed homebound seniors

July 19, 2011, Albuquerque, NM – Meals on Wheels (MOW) of Albuquerque has been awarded \$19,099 from the Walmart Foundation. This grant was made possible through the growing and important relationship built between the Foundation and Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA). The money awarded Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque will help purchase a new van, which is critical to continue serving the homebound in the community.

Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque was founded in 1972 by a community-minded group. Today MOW provides more than 525 meals a day to those in the Greater Albuquerque area regardless of age or disability. Having served over 2.5 million meals during its 39 year history, the philosophy of MOW is to *"be here when you need us, as long as you need us"*. For that reason MOW has chosen not to receive any government funding – their desire is to help anyone of any age. They are the **only organization** in the Albuquerque area providing home delivered therapeutic meals to meet the specific health needs of this vulnerable population (they prepare 7 different types of diets each day). Its mission is "Nourishing bodies and spirits of the homebound with balanced meals and friendship."

This financial support is desperately needed as the 39 year old program struggles with skyrocketing gasoline costs and rising food prices. The Walmart Foundation-MOWAA "Building the Future" Impact Grant allows MOW to purchase the new van which helps ensure sustainability while fostering long-term growth of the nonprofit.

"Thanks to the Walmart Foundation-MOWAA Building the Future Impact Grant, we now have a brighter future in our efforts to keep feeding those needing our services in our community," said Samantha Blauwkamp, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque. "This grant helps us provide the next meal to our clients in need and will truly make a difference for those most vulnerable, the *'hidden hungry'*, in Albuquerque."

"We know that seniors are among those hardest hit by hunger in this country. Many are homebound, and rely on neighbors and community volunteer programs like MOW to help put food on the table," said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. "...we hope to bring additional attention to senior hunger and help ensure our parents; grandparents and friends who have added so much to our lives have access to healthy and nutritious food."

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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. 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.