



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **MANA Commends Wal-Mart's New Employee Health Benefits Package**

Washington, D.C. – October 24, 2007 - Wal-Mart, the nation's leading private employer of Hispanic men and women, announced enhancements to its 2008 employee health benefits package. The new health package offers many things that are important to Wal-Mart associates, including more personalized choices, reduced deductibles, and pre-deductible credits.

“This innovative initiative touches on many of the health benefits we ask that employers across the country provide to their employees,” stated Alma Morales Riojas, President and CEO of MANA. “We congratulate Wal-Mart for its efforts to provide affordable coverage that meets the needs of its full-time and part-time associates,” said Alma Morales Riojas.

The MANA health programs focusing on Latina well-being prioritize access to affordable health care and prescription drug coverage. Education, awareness and prevention of heart disease, diabetes, and other contributing factors are essential elements in the MANA programs. The Wal-Mart health care benefits plan addresses the concerns of access and affordable options.

Highlights of Wal-Mart's 2008 benefits plan include:

- Wal-Mart's 1.3 million U.S. associates, 154,000 of whom are Hispanic, will have more than 50 ways to customize their health benefits package by choosing their own deductibles, credits, and premiums. This is a considerable increase over 2007, when most employees had only nine choices.
- The prescription plan has also been expanded. Last year less than 20 generic prescriptions were available at a cost of \$3; this year employees can choose from over 2,400 generic prescriptions for \$4. Wal-Mart estimates that the change in prescription benefits alone will save its associates approximately \$25 million. This is a considerable savings for thousands of families.

MANA looks forward to continue working with Wal-Mart in its efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community. Wal-Mart's commitment to the Hispanic community extends to all levels of the organization. *LATINA Style* magazine recently recognized Wal-Mart as one of the “50 Best Companies for Latinas. And two Hispanics sit on Wal-Mart's board of directors: Rolando Hernandez and Aida Alvarez - recognized as one of MANA's 1998 “Las Primeras” in her capacity as the first Latina to serve as Administrator for the United States Small Business Administration.

*MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. and with chapters across the country. It is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. MANA, whose mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy, envisions a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics.*