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MANA, A National Latina Organization Applauds Wal-Mart Philanthropic Efforts

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty five Chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, applauds the efforts of the Wal-Mart Foundation for their recent philanthropic endeavors. Not only have they pledged to provide 70 million meals to families in need by the end of 2009, but have also announced a \$12.5 million letter of credit for the planned Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Wal-Mart announced this month that its Supercenters and Neighborhood Markets will partner with Feeding America to provide an estimated 90 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 70 million meals, to families in need. This generous support, combined with a \$2.5 million cash donation will allow Feeding America to improve warehouse capacity, and purchase new refrigerated trucks to safely transport food from Wal-Mart stores to food pantries, soup kitchens and other agencies.

The Wal-Mart Foundation has also made an historic pledge to help the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial become a reality in Washington, DC. With the \$12.5 million letter of credit offered by Wal-Mart, the memorial foundation will be able to submit required documents to the National Park Service to obtain a construction permit. This financial backing provides an essential starting point for the project. Fundraising efforts for the project completion have already reached \$100 million of the \$120 million needed.

“In these difficult economic times, Wal-Mart is helping to bring a renewed sense of hope and community service to the American people not only in terms of providing meals to families in need, but in a symbolic capacity as well with support for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. We are so proud to count Wal-Mart among our community partners,” said MANA President and CEO Alma Morales Riojas.

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***About MANA:** MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. 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. MANA also has the only national Latina mentoring program for girls 11 to 18, known as "HERMANITAS®".*

***About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.:** Wal-mart Stores, Inc. 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. 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.com*