



# NEWS RELEASE



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## American Red Cross of Eastern Washington Seven Chapters Receive over \$160,000 from the Wal-Mart Foundation

### *Grant to Support Disaster Preparedness and Volunteer Recruitment throughout the Region*

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**SPOKANE, WA** (April 2, 2009) – The seven American Red Cross Chapters of Eastern Washington announced today that they are receiving a \$163,660 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to expand their ability to prepare for, respond to and provide relief during a major disaster. The Apple Valley (Wenatchee), Benton-Franklin (Kennewick), Blue Mountain (Walla Walla), Inland Northwest (Spokane), Kittitas County (Ellensburg), North Cascades (Okanogan), and Yakima Valley (Yakima) Chapters are just a few of the 128 Red Cross Chapters awarded funds as part of the Wal-Mart Foundation’s initiative to support disaster response and capacity building projects nationwide.

“The seven American Red Cross Chapters in this region provide services to communities located throughout 38,000 square miles of Eastern Washington,” said Dawn Lindblom, Executive Director of the Inland Northwest Chapter. “With such a vast area to serve, this funding will provide resources to our Chapters that will allow us to respond more quickly to a disaster anywhere in the region and sustain a long-term disaster relief effort if one is needed.”

The Wal-Mart Foundation partnered with the American Red Cross to create a \$5 million Disaster Readiness and Capacity Building Grant Program. This grant will benefit communities across the country that reside near Red Cross Chapters located in remote areas that often become isolated during times of disaster and whose chartered jurisdictions serve less than one million people – like the Chapters of Eastern Washington.

The grant will be used to purchase disaster relief supplies and equipment including cots, blankets, and shelter trailers. Funding will also be used to build the volunteer base in each community and provide extensive training in large-scale disaster preparedness and relief operations to Red Cross staff and volunteers.

“At Wal-Mart, helping communities is what we do every day. And when a crisis strikes, that charge becomes an even greater priority,” said Margaret Mckenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation. “Our long-standing support of the American Red Cross is evidence of our commitment to supporting local disaster relief efforts. We are hopeful that the \$5 million we have given to local Red Cross chapters across the country will result in the swift, effective response to disasters, and the development of resources *before* disaster strikes.”

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The Wal-Mart Foundation stands ready to help and to work with local leaders, community organizations and elected officials in the instance of a disaster. With a long-standing commitment to supporting local disaster relief efforts, the Wal-Mart Foundation works with the American Red Cross and other organizations in an effort to help its neighbors and communities during times of need.

“We are appreciative to the Wal-Mart Foundation for this much needed grant to enhance our local chapters’ ability to serve their communities,” said Michael Brown, Vice President of Corporate and Foundation Partnerships at the American Red Cross. “Because of their generous support, we will be better positioned to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters in communities across the country.”

**About the American Red Cross**

*The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, some 500,000 volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of over 70,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to ten million participants; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost four million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 90 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.*

**About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**

*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 creating opportunities in education, workforce development, environmental 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](http://www.walmartfoundation.org)*

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