



## **News Release**

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### ***Western Colorado Chapter of the American Red Cross Receives \$15,600 Grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation***

***Grant to support: Strengthening the disaster response capacity of the Western Colorado Red Cross Chapter throughout its 10 county jurisdiction***

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**Grand Junction, Colorado** (April 13, 2009) – The Western Colorado Chapter of the American Red Cross announced that it is receiving a **\$15,600** grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation that will be used to strengthen the Chapter's disaster response capacity throughout its ten county chartered jurisdiction that includes Mesa, Eagle, Pitkin, Garfield, Delta, Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Hinsdale, and Gunnison counties. The Western Colorado Chapter is one of 128 Red Cross chapters awarded funds as part of the Wal-Mart Foundation's initiative to support disaster response and capacity building projects nationwide.

“Our community volunteers are very excited about the support from the Walmart Foundation as it will allow us to close critical gaps in our disaster response stockpiles and trailers, and ensure that we have the needed tools and capacity to better respond to all types of disasters throughout all our chartered counties.” said David Hintch, the Executive Director of the Western Colorado Chapter.

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 Western Colorado Chapter.

The Western Colorado Chapter will use funding from the Walmart Foundation to conduct community partnership meetings in all 10 Western Slope counties aimed at leveraging community resources and creating new emergency shelter facilities, put on training and capacity

building events for community disaster volunteers, conduct joint emergency drills with sister Red Cross chapters in Colorado and Utah, and purchase critical supplies and equipment that ensure the Chapter's strategically located emergency stockpiles have adequate capacity for a stand-alone 50 family disaster response.

“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.”

The Wal-Mart Foundation stands ready to help and to work with local leaders, community 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 National 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 is a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Fundamental Principles to provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. The American Red Cross (ARC) chartered the Western Colorado Chapter in 1917. The Western Colorado Chapter coordinates with emergency response officials to provide *immediate and free* shelter, food, lifesaving support including replacement of lost clothing and medicines, and counseling to victims of local disasters. The Chapter also provides lifesaving training to local communities and businesses, and supports military members and their families with emergency messaging and counseling all throughout Western Colorado. The Chapter is governed by a locally elected board, is a humanitarian agency - not a government agency - and is solely supported through generous contributions we receive from our Western Slope communities and is not affiliated with, nor receive funding from, any government sources. To learn more visit [redcrosswesterncolorado.org](http://redcrosswesterncolorado.org)

### **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, Walmart, 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)*