



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 State Programs Receive New 4-H Healthy Living Funding Thru Wal-Mart Foundation Grant

CHEVY CHASE, MD—Today, the National 4-H Council has awarded 15 states with grants to develop, strengthen, and implement healthy living programming at the community level. Funded by a \$1 million gift from the Wal-Mart Foundation, each state will receive \$50,000 to further new *Youth Voice: Youth Choice* programming that will mobilize youth in their local communities to tackle wellness issues such as nutrition, physical fitness and safety.

During the selection process, states were tasked with identifying barriers to healthy living in their communities, and creating sustainable programs to provide helpful solutions. The 15 states selected all proposed innovative programming, for example, Hawaii's winning program proposed to improve the exercise habits of people of all ages through "Get Moving for Health," an intergenerational program which incorporates culturally relevant activities -- such as dancing -- into local health activities across the five Hawaiian Islands, reaching over 1000 participants. In addition, Oregon's submission, "4-H Attitudes for Success," promotes healthy lifestyle decisions regarding nutrition, physical activity, and positive choices among at risk youth. Specific emphasis will be placed on Latino and Native American youth with a goal of reaching 1,100 youth and 2,100 parents and siblings in 21 communities. Throughout this program, youth will be encouraged to visit the Oregon "Healthy Lifestyles" Facebook page which will be updated regularly with news and information from Attitudes for Success."

"This generous gift from the Wal-Mart Foundation will help 4-H expand our important health programming," said Donald T. Floyd, Jr., National 4-H Council president and CEO. "These new *Youth Voice: Youth Choice* programs will allow 4-H members to work alongside land-grant university experts and passionate 4-H volunteers to mobilize other young people and get them excited about living healthy lives."

"We are thrilled with the inventive programs the selected states developed for 4-H *Youth Voice: Youth Choice*," said Margaret McKenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation. "Through these programs, youth will not only improve their physical health and the health of those in their communities, but their work in the 4-H system will also improve their self-esteem and leadership skills."

This grant is the first to be provided for the 4-H Healthy Living portfolio. In addition to Hawaii and Oregon, the other winning states include:

- Illinois – "4-H Health Jam"
- Iowa – "Youth Voice: Youth Choice Iowa"
- Louisiana – "Louisiana 4-H Healthy Living"
- Michigan – "Jump into Foods and Fitness"
- Minnesota – "Minnesota Stepping Out"
- New Jersey – "Get Moving – Get Healthy with New Jersey 4-H"
- North Carolina – "Healthy Lifestyle Movement for Minority and Low Income Youth and Families"

- Oklahoma – “Oklahoma Clovers on the Move”
- New Hampshire – “Youth Voice, Youth Choice Challenge”
- Puerto Rico – “Route 4Healthy Living”
- South Dakota – “Living Lean”
- Utah – “TRY Teams for Healthy Living”
- Wisconsin – Wisconsin Youth Voice: Youth Choice for Healthy Living”

About 4-H:

4-H is a community of six million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. National 4-H Council is the private sector, non-profit partner of National 4-H Headquarters (USDA). The 4-H programs are implemented by the 106 Land-Grant Universities and the Cooperative Extension System through their 3,100 local Extension offices across the country. Learn more about 4-H at www.4-H.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.

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