



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Walmart Foundation Awards Over \$680,000 to Washington Non-Profits;  
Celebrates with “Day of Giving” Across State**

*Event held at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital tomorrow at 11 a.m. to honor the great work  
done by the hospital with \$66,826 in funding*

**YAKIMA, Wash. (June 24, 2015)**—Tomorrow, the Walmart Foundation will host a “Day of Giving” in Washington to celebrate awarding \$683,034 to 13 Washington non-profit organizations—including a \$66,826 grant to the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation. Walmart will host three events across Washington to bring together these community leaders and store associates in celebration.

In Yakima, Walmart will honor the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation in a brief ceremony on Thursday, June 25, from 11-11:30 a.m. at the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital’s employee garden—located behind the Maternal Health Services Building on the hospital campus (2811 Tieton Dr, Yakima, 98902).

The \$66,826 grant will support the hospital foundation’s preventative health programs, which aim to reduce the instance of diabetes and childhood obesity in Yakima County by improving food literacy and access to exercise programs. Funds will be used to augment current program offerings, such as yoga, Zumba®, fitness boot camps, and healthy eating cooking classes and grocery store tours.

“This grant will provide area families with the skills they need to make better health choices—something that can impact their health for generations,” said Bertha Lopez, senior director of community health. “The Healthy Communities, One Person at a Time program is a critical component of our efforts to address the obesity epidemic in Yakima, and will help us prevent type 2 diabetes and other chronic health conditions through nutrition counseling..”

This grant is a continuation of Walmart’s partnership with the hospital and its foundation. The hospital has also received funding through the Children’s Miracle Network—which raises funds in Walmart stores—and through partnering with local stores on issues, such as car seat safety.

“Walmart is committed to helping our friends and neighbors live better,” said Matti Havener, vice president and regional general manager for Walmart. “This partnership with the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation helps us do just that. There is nothing more important than our health. We are proud to support their efforts to make healthy living choices easier to make and fun to participate in.”



In addition to the hospital foundation, the Walmart Foundation is pleased to announce grant funding to Senior Services, Lifelong, Making a Difference Foundation, Food Lifeline Food Bank, Northwest Harvest, YMCA of Greater Seattle, Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels, Second Harvest Food Bank, Asotin County Food Bank Association, the Parks and Recreation Foundation of Vancouver and Clark County, and the Okanogan County Community Action Council, Inc. Day of Giving celebrations will be also held in Vancouver and Seattle to recognize these organizations.

Funding was provided through the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Council and its Fight Hunger.Spark Change campaign.

Community grants are just one way that Walmart gives back to our Washington communities. In FY 2015, Walmart contributed more than \$20 million in cash and in-kind contributions to organizations in Washington—including donating over 10.3 million pounds of food to area food banks—and our associates volunteered more than 26,300 hours.

#### **Day of Giving: Yakima-area Celebration**

- **When:** June 25 from 11-11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital's employee garden, located behind the Maternal Health Building (2811 Tieton Dr, Yakima, WA 98902)
- **Why:** To celebrate \$66,826 in funding to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
- **Visuals:**
  - On campus check presentation where Walmart associates present the hospital foundation with grant funding

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#### **About Philanthropy at Walmart**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts that draw on the strengths of Walmart in the arenas of sustainability, economic opportunity, and community. As part of our commitment to creating a more sustainable food system worldwide, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are leading the fight against hunger in the United States. They recently exceeded a \$2 billion goal to fight hunger one year ahead of schedule and have donated more than 1.5 billion pounds of food to those in need across the country. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit [www.foundation.walmart.com](http://www.foundation.walmart.com).

#### **About the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation**

Memorial Family of Services is the largest employer in Central Washington's Yakima County, with some 2,500 employees who share the organization's core purpose: to inspire people to thrive. Memorial Family of Services includes Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital – a 226-bed, acute-care, nonprofit community hospital – as well as primary care practices and specialty care services, including high-quality cardiac care, a continuum of cancer care, nationally-recognized home health and hospice care, and advanced services for children with special health care needs. Visit Memorial online at [yakimamemorial.org](http://yakimamemorial.org) or on Facebook



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