



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Stephen Smookler
Executive Director
Wesley Community Services
513/661-2777
ssmookler@wesleycs.org

Wesley Community Services Gets \$15,000 National Walmart Foundation Grant For Meals-On-Wheels Program

Grant received at critical time as economy threatens seniors in Cincinnati, Ohio

March 5, Cincinnati, Ohio – Wesley Community Services has been awarded \$15,000 through a Walmart Foundation grant to the Meals-On-Wheels Association of America (MOWAA). The money will provide partial funding to purchase Mobile Computing Devices (MCDs) to establish a meals-on-wheels bar code tracking system, which will dramatically improve the delivery of meals to seniors in Greater Cincinnati neighborhoods.

This financial support is desperately needed as many Meals-On-Wheels programs across the country are struggling to survive during this economic downturn. “The Walmart Foundation Impact Grant helps Wesley Community Services (WCS) meet our equipment needs to efficiently provide meals to seniors,” says Stephen Smookler, WCS Executive Director. “This grant will help us improve our meals delivery by simplifying paperwork and reducing clerical staff time.” Smookler said. “We are very pleased to be a recipient of this distinguished initiative” says Dan Heyd, Chairman of Wesley Community Services.

The Walmart Foundation is spending more than \$2 million nationwide thru MOWAA in 2010 to make sure Meals-On-Wheels programs have the equipment they need to maintain their operations.

“Seniors have been hit especially hard in this economy and we feel a responsibility to help,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “We’re proud to support Meals-On-Wheels programs across the U.S. who work on the front lines of ending senior hunger.”

“The Walmart Foundation has once again stepped up to the plate as a powerful partner in the fight to end senior hunger,” said Enid Borden, president and CEO of MOWAA. “They are our largest corporate partner to date and their support will make a tremendous impact in helping our programs sustain meal services well into the future. We can’t thank the Walmart Foundation enough for joining us in our national movement to end senior hunger in America by 2020.”

Late last year MOWAA released a groundbreaking study revealing six million seniors in America face the risk of hunger. The report, entitled, “Senior Hunger in the United States: Differences across States and Rural and Urban Areas” was sponsored by MOWAA and shows that the number of seniors facing the hunger risk jumped an astonishing 20 percent in just one year. The Walmart Impact Grant Program is intended to help combat the problem of senior hunger.

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About Wesley Community Services

Wesley Community Services fosters and supports seniors seeking to remain in their home for as long as possible through the provision of essential home-based services including Meals-On-Wheels, Homecleaning, Specialized Transportation, and a Pet Portions Program (free pet food for client pets) to over 2,500 seniors and individuals with disabilities. Wesley Community Services is funded by the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and is a United Way partner agency. For more information about Wesley Community Services call 513/661-2777, or visit www.wesleycs.org.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart 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 Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Walmart – and its domestic and international foundations – gave more than \$423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.