Walmart Foundation Grants $25,000 to Habitat for Humanity Lake County

Funds will further local relief efforts following September’s devastating Valley fire

CLEARLAKE, Calif., (Dec. 9, 2015) – The Walmart Foundation’s California State Giving Council today presented a $25,000 check to Habitat for Humanity Lake County to help the organization provide critical repairs to the homes of more than 1,300 residents who were displaced by this summer’s devastating wildfires. Nearly 2,000 structures were destroyed in the Valley fire. These funds are in addition to the $200,000 in cash and in-kind support which was committed to relief efforts surrounding wildfires in Northern California and other parts of the western U.S. earlier this year.

The $25,000 grant was presented to Richard Birk, president of Habitat for Humanity Lake County, during a check presentation ceremony today at the Walmart Store in Clearlake. The store served as an evacuation point for the community during the fire, remaining open 24 hours a day to ensure the community had access to supplies. The store also provided continuous support with donations of food, water, cots, blankets, hygiene products and other necessities.

The Clearlake Walmart has also donated supplies and merchandise to multiple evacuation sites, including the Salvation Army food truck, the local senior center and Moose Lodge, and an evacuation site in Kelseyville, among others.

“We are honored to support organizations like Habitat for Humanity Lake County, which is providing critical services to area families impacted by the recent Valley fire,” said Travis Peck, store manager of the Clearlake Walmart. “Through this grant and our commitment to making a difference in people’s lives, Walmart is helping Lake County and the greater Clearlake community rebuild and rebound.”

Established in 2000, Habitat for Humanity Lake County completed its first home in 2002 and will complete its 19th home by the end of 2015. In addition, the organization has provided more than 175 homeowners in Lake County with critical health and safety related repairs as part of its Home Repair and Veteran’s Repair programs.

“The fires of 2015 presented our community with a number of unprecedented challenges, including the need to secure safe housing for the hundreds of families that were displaced,” said Birk. “This generous grant from Walmart will help us repair homes which survived the fires and need to be made livable again, as well as build homes for those unable to rebuild or were displaced renters. We’re so thankful for these funds which will make a direct and lasting impact on the lives of so many in our area.”
In 2014, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than $58 million in cash and in-kind contributions to charitable organizations across California. To be considered for support, perspective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program’s online grant application. Applicants must have a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in order to meet the program’s minimum eligibility criteria. Additional information about the program’s funding guidelines and application process are available online at www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving.

About Habitat for Humanity International
Habitat for Humanity International’s vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Since 1976, Habitat has helped more than 6.8 million people gain strength, stability and independence through housing, including home construction, rehabilitation and repairs and by increasing access to improved shelter through products and programs. Habitat also advocates improving access to decent and affordable shelter and offers a variety of housing support services that enable families with limited means to make needed improvements on their homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit www.habitat.org.

About the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program
The Walmart State Giving Program provides grants to nonprofits that serve underserved populations. The program operates in every state in the U.S., D.C. and Puerto Rico. Councils within each state award grants twice a year during designated cycle periods. Grants may be provided to organizations whose work aligns with the Walmart Foundation’s focused giving areas, including programs centered around hunger relief and healthy eating and career opportunity, as well as to groups implementing programs focused on the unmet needs of underserved populations, including education, health care access and other human services programs. For more information and how to apply for grants, visit http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/

About Philanthropy at Walmart
By using our strengths to help others, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation create opportunities for people to live better every day. We have stores in 28 countries, employing more than 2.2 million associates and doing business with thousands of suppliers who, in turn, employ millions of people. We are helping people live better by accelerating upward job mobility and economic development for the retail workforce; addressing hunger and making healthier, more sustainably-grown food a reality; and building strong communities where we operate and inspiring our associates to give back. Whether it is helping to lead the fight against hunger in the United States with $2 billion in cash and in-kind donations or supporting Women’s Economic Empowerment through a series of grants totaling $10 million to the Women in Factories training program in Bangladesh, China, India and Central America, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are not only working to tackle key social issues, we are also collaborating with others to inspire solutions for long-lasting systemic change. To learn more about Walmart’s giving, visit www.foundation.walmart.com.

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