



Puget Sound Area

USO Puget Sound Area Announces \$20,000 Donation from Walmart

Walmart Associate Choice program gives \$10,000; Walmart donates additional \$10,000 to USOPSA Five-Star Gala and Auction on Sept. 22 in support of local military families

SEATTLE – August 20, 2012 – USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) today announced a \$20,000 grant and event sponsorship from Walmart that will help fund the USO's ongoing mission to lift the spirits of America's military and their families. The Walmart Foundation awarded \$10,000 to USOPSA as part of the Associate Choice Program in Washington State, an annual online campaign where Walmart associates vote directly for a nonprofit to receive funding in their home state. In addition, Walmart is contributing a \$10,000 sponsorship of the USOPSA Five-Star Gala and Auction on Sept. 22 at The Westin Bellevue. The combined \$20,000 donation will help support USO operations in 2012.

"Walmart's commitment to the USO and our local military families directly impacts our reach throughout the Northwest," said Donald Leingang, executive director of USO Puget Sound Area and CDR, USN (Ret.). "In 2011, USOPSA lifted the spirits of more than 537,000 service members and military families, and this grant will allow us to reach even more this year."

The seven-week Associate Choice voting program awarded \$4 million in grants to statewide organizations across the U.S. Other regional nonprofits that received funds include Seattle Children's Hospital and Northwest Harvest.

Walmart associates' commitment to community giving expands beyond the Associate Choice program. Additionally, Walmart's Volunteerism Always Pays Program (VAP) awards nonprofit organizations with financial contributions when Walmart associates volunteer. During the last fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2012, associates volunteered over 1 million hours that resulted in more than \$13 million in grants to local nonprofits.

"Our associates' commitment to organizations like the USO Puget Sound Area is something Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are very proud of," says Matti Havener, Walmart senior director and regional general manager for Washington and Oregon. "At Walmart, we recognize the importance of giving back to the communities where we operate and supporting organizations that our customers and associates value."

In 2011, Walmart stores, Sam's Club locations and the Walmart Foundation gave \$958.9 million in cash and in-kind contributions around the globe. In addition, Walmart and Sam's Club customers and associates around the world raised \$140 million through in-store giving programs to benefit local charities. In Washington State, Walmart gave more than \$15 million to support local nonprofits.

The USOPSA Five-Star Gala and Auction is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 22, 2012 at The Westin Bellevue. For more information and to sponsor this year's event, please visit www.usopsa.org/gala.

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To schedule interviews (press only), please contact:

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About USO Puget Sound Area

For 71 years, the USO has lifted the spirits of America's military and their families. USO Puget Sound Area continues that tradition today by serving more than 537,000 active-duty military, dependents and veterans annually, via USO centers at Sea-Tac Airport and Joint Base Lewis-McChord; and the USO Mobile Canteen, which delivers USO hospitality to military and civilian events across the Pacific Northwest. USO Puget Sound Area is a private, non-profit organization and a chartered center of USO Headquarters in Arlington, VA, not a government agency. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers and donors. We are also supported through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-15348).

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to USOPSA, visit us online at: www.usopsa.org. Show your support for our military and follow @USOPSA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart and its Foundation made a historic pledge of \$2 billion through 2015 to fight hunger in the U.S. The Walmart Foundation also supports education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.