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**Contact: Carrie Shaw**  
**(425) 344-1787**

## **USO Puget Sound Announces \$50k Donation from Wal-Mart Key support grows as organization marks record-breaking year of service**

SEATTLE – The USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) announced today a major donation from Wal-Mart and a record-breaking year of service to over 380,000 service members and their families in 2008. The \$50,000 Wal-Mart donation is the largest from Wal-Mart to the USOPSA and will help support the Sea-Tac and McChord Air Force Base USO centers and events and community programs around the Puget Sound region.

“Wal-Mart is a national corporate leader in their generous support of our men and women in uniform,” says Tom Jaffa, USOPSA board chairman, and president and CEO of The Jaffa Company. “They recognize the sacrifice and heroic efforts of our service members and their families, and we are honored to have them partner with us at such a generous level of support.”

Jennifer Spall, senior manager for public affairs and government relations at Wal-Mart, says that Wal-Mart has a long history of supporting the country’s men and women in uniform and the USOPSA community efforts are a good fit. “We can make the greatest impact on our communities by supporting causes that are important to our customers right in their own neighborhoods. The USOPSA reaches tens of thousands of people every year. They are about expressing gratitude for service, and that’s something we value,” Spall says.

In addition to the USO, Wal-Mart supports over 100,000 charities and community-based organizations. The company supports many veteran and community organizations focused on serving America’s military members and families including Fisher House, Operation Homefront, American Council on Education, and Student Veterans of America.

“Wal-Mart invests their money with their values,” says Don Leingang, USOSPA executive director. “They have the largest number of employees currently deployed, so they understand the value of what the USO does and what our services and programs mean to service members and their families. Wal-Mart is a true partner.”

Leingang added that with 2008 being a record-breaking year for the number of people serviced, 2009 will continue at a strong pace. “We are seeing more deployments from this area and military families continue to travel 24/7. That’s why our ‘army of gratitude’ is there to bring the comforts of home and offer ongoing support,” Leingang says.

For more information on the USO Puget Sound Area and the upcoming 2009 USO Golf Tournament at Newcastle go to [www.usopsa.org](http://www.usopsa.org)

For more information on the Wal-Mart Foundation go to [www.walmartstores.com/communitygiving](http://www.walmartstores.com/communitygiving)  
Or contact Jennifer Spall at (425) 222-3854.

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