



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pickens County Meals on Wheels Awarded Grant from Meals On Wheels Association of America and Wal-Mart Foundation to Cure Senior Hunger**  
*Grant given at a time when program is struggling to feed Pickens County seniors*

**February 13, Pickens, SC** – Pickens County Meals on Wheels (PCMOW) has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) and the Wal-Mart Foundation to support our local program in doing what we do best - feed seniors.

This past year, many Meals On Wheels programs were forced to change or reduce their services, because of severe operating constraints brought on by rising food and gas prices and the current economic crisis. The "MOWAA/Wal-Mart Foundation Cure Grant" is intended to alleviate these burdens for Pickens County Meals on Wheels and help us restore our nutrition services to better serve our seniors in Pickens County.

"With the MOWAA/Wal-Mart Foundation Cure Grant, we will be able to feed more of our seniors in need and make a tremendous impact in our community," said Meg Benko, executive director of PCMOW. "These much needed funds will enable us to build a new route in Central, SC, an underserved area that has been waiting a long time," said Benko.

According to a groundbreaking national research study entitled "The Causes, Consequences and Future of Senior Hunger in America," which was commissioned by the MOWAA Foundation, 1 in 9 seniors in America is at risk of hunger. The fact that 11.4 percent of seniors in the country are at risk of hunger and the fact that the population is aging at an unprecedented rate put a significant strain on community-based Meals On Wheels programs' ability to provide meals for those in need. The "MOWAA/Wal-Mart Foundation Cure Grant Program" is intended to increase the number of individuals served and reverse the forced reduction in meal services seen at Meals On Wheels programs throughout the nation.

"Unlike cancer or AIDS, we have the cure to end senior hunger in America today," said Enid Borden, President and CEO of MOWAA. "We can't thank the Wal-Mart Foundation enough for supporting us in our mission and remembering the seniors we serve during this desperate time."

Pickens County Meals on Wheels exists to combat the effects of hunger, loneliness and isolation on senior citizens living in Pickens County, and to provide a lifeline through the use of caring volunteers. PCMOW has been serving a hot, nutritious noontime meal to seniors in Pickens County for 28 years. Currently, PCMOW serves more than 170 seniors each weekday and maintains a waiting list of eligible seniors. This grant will enable PCMOW to build a route in Central and serve an additional 12 people. Volunteer drivers from the Central area are urgently needed to begin this route. Please call 864-878-7650 to volunteer.

The Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) is the oldest and largest national organization in the United States representing those programs that provide meals to people in need. To obtain more information about MOWAA or to locate a local Meals On Wheels program, visit the MOWAA website at [www.mowaa.org](http://www.mowaa.org).

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart 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 Wal-Mart Foundation supports initiatives focused on enhancing opportunities in education, job skills training, sustainability and health and wellness. In 2007, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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