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Brazos Valley Food Bank, Walmart Ask Community to ‘Spring Into Action’ *Food Bank receives \$150k, largest grocer donation this year*

Bryan, Texas — May 1, 2014 — Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) and Walmart joined together Thursday with the support of Mayor Jason Bienski, City of Bryan, and Mayor Pro Tem Karl Mooney, City of College Station, to ask the community to ‘Spring into Action’ to help the growing number of hungry families in the area this season.

After the holidays and before summer, BVFB has a lull in both monetary and food donations; however, the great need to provide nutritious, regular meals for local individuals and families remains just as significant. That is why both organizations encouraged the community to ‘Spring into Action’ and join them in helping feed those in need this season and all year long.

Walmart kicked off the ‘Spring into Action’ effort by presenting the Brazos Valley Food Bank with a special \$150,000 donation, the largest grocer contribution to the non-profit organization’s *Because Hunger Won’t Wait* capital campaign this year.

“Even beyond Thanksgiving and Christmas, thousands of our fellow residents are hungry and cannot afford to put dinner on the table each night,” said Jason Bienski, Mayor, City of Bryan. “No matter the time of year, no child, parent or individual in our community should have to face food insecurity. Thank you to all those who support the Brazos Valley Food Bank and especially Walmart for their generous contribution today.”

“Whether through a donation of time, resources or money, I know our community will step up to help those in need,” said Karl Mooney, Mayor Pro Tem, City of College Station. “Walmart is truly leading by example and continues to be a valued partner in this area as it grows and prospers.”

“Last year, BVFB distributed just over 4 million pounds of food to over 48,000 hungry neighbors in need in the Brazos Valley,” said Theresa Mangapora, executive director, Brazos Valley Food Bank. “This year, we are on track to distribute 5.5 million pounds of food, and we predict serving even more hungry individuals, children, seniors and families.”

“Despite a better economy, many vulnerable families are still living paycheck to paycheck, making tough choices about what expenses to pay and oftentimes food is the option that is foregone,” said Mangapora. “As the school year ends and school meals are no longer a lifeline for these families, the need for BVFB’s partner agencies grows even more.”

“Everyday in our community and across the region families struggle to put food on their tables,” said Greg Smith, market manager, Walmart. “On behalf of all of our associates in the Brazos Valley, we are proud to partner with the Brazos Valley Food Bank to fight hunger in the community where we live and work.”

This donation was made possible through the [Walmart Foundation’s Texas State Giving Program](#), a collaborative effort between associate-led State Advisory Councils and the Walmart Foundation to identify the needs of Texans, review grant requests and make funding recommendations. The donation aligns with Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s ‘Fighting Hunger Together’ campaign, a \$2 billion cash and in-kind commitment launched in 2010 to battle hunger in America through 2015.

“I am thrilled to announce that we have reached our \$2 billion commitment one year early,” said Smith. “Through our donation today and continued partnership with BVFB and its Retail Pick-up Program, we hope to inspire additional community support for BVFB, so that no Brazos Valley resident will ever have to face a day wondering where his or her next meal will come from.”

The program concluded with another donation from Walmart of hundreds of pounds of food, an additional part of its participation in BVFB’s Retail Pick-up program. For more information on how to donate or volunteer with BVFB, go to <http://www.bvfb.org/volunteer.html>.

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About the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB)

The Brazos Valley Food Bank is a central distribution site that unites food donors, volunteers and hunger-relief agencies. As the hub of over 36 different agencies that feed the hungry throughout Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Robertson and Washington Counties, the Brazos Valley Food Bank is on target to distribute over 5.5 million pounds of food this year. In addition to supplying food to partner agencies, the Brazos Valley Food Bank oversees Children's BackPack and Senior Bag Programs, School-Based and Mobile Food Pantries, as well as Social Service Outreach programs to reach those in need. To learn more, please visit www.bvfb.org.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts. By operating globally and giving back locally, Walmart is uniquely positioned to address the needs of the communities it serves and make a significant social impact within its core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Career Opportunity and Women's Economic Empowerment. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit foundation.walmart.com.