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Press Release

## COCOA Receives \$35,000 Wal-Mart Grant

**Deschutes County – June 23, 2009** Central Oregon Council on Aging (COCOA) has received a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation's State Giving program. The Wal-Mart Foundation makes this award of \$35,000 in support of COCOA's Centralized Kitchen Project.

The State Giving Program strives to award grants to community organizations where it will have a long-lasting positive impact and for efforts that help solve the unmet needs of underserved populations, giving individuals access to a better life. COCOA's Centralized Kitchen project is one such program.

For more than 33 years Central Oregon Council on Aging has worked to meet the independent living needs of local seniors. One important aspect of services offered is the senior nutrition program. In just the past year COCOA has provided healthful hot meals every day of the week to more than 4,000 individuals in the tri-county area. Meals are served at local senior centers and meal sites and for those who may not be able to leave their homes, meals are delivered through the Meals-on-Wheels program by a tireless corps of dedicated volunteers. The Centralized Kitchen Project, located at the Redmond Senior Center, supports all of COCOA's nutrition programs.

Executive Director Dave Hamilton says, "COCOA is honored to be selected for this grant, which really recognizes our nutrition programs for the important service they provide seniors and homebound persons in need. The financial support is really needed, particularly during these difficult economic times. Our staff members, volunteers and the seniors we serve are all very excited to be able to include The Wal-Mart Foundation in our family of supporters."

The funds provided to COCOA through Wal-Mart's State Giving Program are earmarked for kitchen equipment, food purchases and expenses associated with food delivery.

For more information about COCOA and the Centralized Kitchen Project visit [www.councilonaging.org](http://www.councilonaging.org). Information about the Wal-Mart Foundation can be found at [walmartstores.com](http://walmartstores.com), just follow the link to Community Giving.

Thank you!