



Community Food Bank  
of san benito county

## Walmart Foundation Grants \$102,000 to Two Local Non-Profits

*Rancho Cielo and Community Food Bank of San Benito County receive funds  
To help culinary students and distribute food to families in need, respectively*

**SALINAS, Calif. – May 1, 2015** – The Walmart Foundation’s California State Giving Program has awarded a total of \$102,000 to Rancho Cielo and Community Food Bank of San Benito County.

“We’re proud to support Community Food Bank of San Benito County and Rancho Cielo in their efforts to fight hunger in our community and help give our youth valuable skills that put them on a path to successful employment,” said Walmart Market Manager James Maynard. “Their work is making a real difference in the lives of thousands of people in our community.”

Twice a year, the Walmart Foundation’s California State Giving Program awards grants to local organizations that address the needs of the communities they serve and make a significant social impact.

The following nonprofits received a State Giving grant to fund vital programs that have proven to help those in the area live better lives:

**Rancho Cielo** was awarded a \$35,000 grant to support the Drummond Culinary Academy, a charter vocational high school for underserved youth in Monterey County. It is one of several Rancho Cielo programs tailored to help transform the lives of youth through learning new skills, on the job training, and professional mentorship. The Academy’s goal is to train at-risk youth in the Salinas and Monterey County area in a work environment that is conducive to learning, where they feel challenged, respected, and accountable.

“It is an honor to accept this grant from the Walmart Foundation,” said Susie Brusa, executive director for Rancho Cielo. “These funds will continue to provide academy-level culinary instruction to students while earning their high school diploma.”

Rancho Cielo is a comprehensive learning and social services center for underserved youth in Monterey County. Established in 2000 and residing on 100 acres including two lakes, stables and a cultivated garden, Rancho Cielo is also a restored piece of Salinas Valley natural history.



Walmart presents Rancho Cielo with \$35,000  
L to R: Mark Bruszer (Program Coordinator), Stephanie Hurtado (student), Anne Branch, Guille Reynoso (Parent), Susie Brusa (Executive Director), Samie Weaver (Walmart representative), Jimmy Panetta (Rancho Cielo Board member)

[Community Food Bank of San Benito County](#) was awarded a \$67,000 grant for the purchase of a new truck to support the food bank's food acquisition program.



*Walmart presents \$67,000 to Community Food Bank of San Benito County  
L to R: MaryAnne Hughes (Fund Development), Samie Weaver (Walmart representative), Maria Lynn Thomas (Chief Executive Officer)*

“We’re grateful for this grant from the Walmart Foundation as it will support food acquisition and distribution in San Benito County,” said Maria Lynn Thomas, the chief executive officer of the Community Food Bank of San Benito County. “It will help us serve those with the greatest need -- low-income seniors, families, children, homeless and disabled residents of our community.”

The food bank is the only countywide source of nutritious food for residents and for other agencies that serve people in need—children’s programs, shelters, senior programs and emergency food distributions in San Benito County.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation look for organizations that address the needs of the communities they serve and make a significant social impact within Walmart’s core areas of giving: hunger relief & healthy eating,

sustainability, women’s economic empowerment and career opportunity.

During the last fiscal year Walmart and the [Walmart Foundation](#) gave more than \$1.47 billion of cash and in-kind contributions, including efforts to fight hunger, provide economic opportunity and advance sustainability practices.. In California, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s giving exceeded \$58 million.

To be considered for support, prospective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program’s online grant application. Applicants must have a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in order to meet the program’s minimum eligibility criteria. Additional information about the program’s funding guidelines and application process are available online at [www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving](http://www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving). The next application cycle opens on July 13, 2015.

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### **About Philanthropy at Walmart**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts that draw on the strengths of Walmart in the arenas of sustainability, economic opportunity, and community. As part of our commitment to creating a more sustainable food system worldwide, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are leading the fight against hunger in the United States. They recently exceeded a \$2 billion goal to fight hunger one year ahead of schedule and have donated more than 1.5 billion pounds of food to those in need across the country. To learn more about Walmart’s giving, visit [www.foundation.walmart.com](http://www.foundation.walmart.com).