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Walmart Launches Los Angeles Solar Schools Program *Four Southern California Schools Receive Solar Panelings*

LOS ANGELES, Calif., April 7, 2011 – Four Los Angeles area schools will soon be equipped with solar panels and corresponding hands-on classroom curriculum thanks to a \$1.2 million Walmart Foundation grant to the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED). As part of the Solar Schools Grant Initiative, Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School in Downtown Los Angeles, Environmental Charter High School in Lawndale, Amino Inglewood Charter High School, and Amino South Los Angeles High School were outfitted with solar panels.

The Solar Schools Grant Initiative provides each school with the renewable energy technology along with related curriculum materials, teacher training and hands-on science kits. The installations serve as living science experiments for the students. In addition to Los Angeles, schools in Chicago, Minneapolis, Washington D.C., and Seattle are also participating in this program.

“Para Los Niños thanks our long-time supporters at Walmart for selecting our Charter Elementary School as one of the Solar Schools Grant Initiative project sites,” said Para Los Niños President & CEO Gisselle Acevedo. “This gift is both an investment in our children’s education and a symbol of our shared dedication to improving the quality of life and our environment in every community.”

“The NEED Project is honored to be part of such an extraordinary program – bringing sustainable energy technologies together with teacher professional development and hands-on learning tools,” said Mary Spruill, Executive Director, The NEED Project. “The Walmart Foundation’s support of this program provides students, teachers, and the entire Para los Ninos community with tools and resources to make learning about energy exciting and fun. Today’s Para los Ninos students are tomorrow’s scientists, engineers and decision makers.”

The four solar installations are expected to annually:

- generate approximately 30,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity,
- save the schools more than \$4,700 in energy costs and
- prevent more than 127 tons of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

“The Solar Schools program is a perfect joining together of Walmart’s commitment to providing unique learning experiences and promoting the growth of renewable energy,” said Javier C. Angulo, Director of Community Affairs for Walmart. “The installation of solar panels at schools like Para Los Niños will also provide long-term energy savings that will bring the funds back into the classroom, where it matters most.”

The panels for the Los Angeles area schools were all manufactured by SunPower and installed by California Solar Electric.

In addition to aligning with Walmart’s renewable energy goal and commitment to education and teachers, this grant will help create and sustain green jobs. All of the panels used in the Solar Schools program are manufactured in the United States. According to NEED, this program will help support green jobs, including engineering, design and installer technician jobs.

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About Para Los Niños

Established in 1980, Para Los Niños is a nonprofit organization committed to the academic success and social wellbeing of children. Through early childhood education, charter schools and community partnerships, we provide high-quality education, mental health and family support services to children living in high-poverty areas of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. In partnership with families, Para Los Niños creates opportunities for children to succeed in school and in life. For more information visit www.paralosninos.org.

About NEED

The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to designing and delivering objective energy curriculum and teacher training to schools. NEED's Solar Schools programming integrates photovoltaic installations, inquiry-based classroom curriculum and hands-on experiments, teacher professional development and school support. Established in 1980, NEED currently serves over 65,000 classrooms each year. To learn more, visit www.need.org.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.