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Wal-Mart Helps Sacramento-Area Students Earn Bucks for Their Bags

*Public/Private partnership earns more than \$18,000 for 104 local elementary schools,
and removes more than 24 tons of plastic from the local waste stream*

Sacramento, Calif., June 14, 2006 – The *Wal-Mart Kids Recycling Challenge*, a private/public partnership between Wal-Mart and local elementary schools, has helped students become responsible stewards of their environment while earning money for their schools. The *Kids Recycling Challenge* is the largest plastic bag recycling program of its kind ever undertaken in California.

From January through April, elementary school students in California and Salt Lake City were encouraged to bring plastic retail and grocery bags to their schools for recycling. For each 60-gallon collection bag filled with plastic bags and brought to a local Wal-Mart store, the school was awarded \$5.00 from Wal-Mart.

Participating schools were grouped into 17 small geographic regions. The three schools in each region that brought in the most collection bags received additional cash grants from Wal-Mart in the amounts of \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second, and \$500 for third. The top school was also rewarded with an environmentally-themed school-wide assembly.

Sacramento-area results

Collectively, 104 elementary schools in El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties participated in the program, filling a total of 3,053 collection bags – weighing 48,848 pounds – and earning \$18,265 in the process.

Mary Tsukamoto Elementary in Sacramento topped all participating Sacramento-area schools by filling (226) 60-gallon collection bags (totaling 3616 pounds). In addition to earning \$5.00 per bag, and the \$1,500 grand prize, the students of Mary Tsukamoto Elementary will also be rewarded with entertaining assemblies focusing on the environment, courtesy of Wal-Mart. The assemblies will take place today at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 1:00 PM. Prior to each assembly, a representative from Wal-Mart will present a check for \$2,630 to the hard-working students.

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Sacramento-area students earn more than \$18,000 from Wal-Mart - 2/2

“The *Wal-Mart Kids Recycling Challenge* has been the major source of income for our student council,” said Terri Washington of Tsukamoto Elementary. “It’s wonderful that our students are learning about ways that they can keep our environment clean and be rewarded for it at the same time.”

Other top schools in the region include Samuel Kennedy Elementary School in Sacramento (second place with 199 collection bags), and Lake Forest Elementary School in El Dorado Hills (third place with 183 collection bags). In addition to receiving \$5.00 per collection bag, these schools will be awarded additional cash grants from Wal-Mart in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Steady expansion

The *Kids Recycling Challenge* debuted in May, 2005 in Sacramento, Palm Springs, and Salt Lake City, and has steadily expanded across the entire state of California.

Since its inception, nearly 900 schools have participated, and have recycled more than 350 tons of plastic bags, earning more than \$327,000 from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

“The *Kids Recycling Challenge* epitomizes Wal-Mart’s commitment to supporting the local communities that our stores serve while helping to protect our environment,” said Nicole Anderson of the Wal-Mart Foundation. “At the same time, the program offers enormous potential for educating our children on the importance of recycling – more than 450,000 students attend the 885 schools that have participated in the program so far and have learned valuable lessons that they will carry with them their entire lives.”

The overwhelming success of the program has prompted Wal-Mart to expand the *Kids Recycling Challenge* into 11 states in September. Details will be announced shortly, and interested schools are invited to visit www.kidsrecyclingchallenge.com to learn more and to enroll.

Assembly photos available

Visit www.kidsrecyclingchallenge.com/media.html for the complete final results of the *Kids Recycling Challenge*, assembly photos, and more information.

About Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

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