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Sea-Tac Center receives six figure donation from Walmart Foundation

SEATTLE, WA (November 22, 2013) – The USO Northwest received $100 thousand from the Walmart Foundation. The funds are directed toward the construction of a new USONW Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Center. The new 7,000 square-foot center, designed to accommodate the 10,000 local and traveling military personnel, will cost $1.7 million.

"We are so fortunate to have the community showing their support of our military," said Bill Baker, SeaTac Center Manager. "This very generous donation from the Walmart Foundation helps make our dream to double the size of our airport center a reality. Literally tens of thousands of military members and their dependents will be able to experience the foundation's gift for the next two decades."

This is the third largest donation the USO Northwest's Capital Campaign, Enduring Support, has received. The donation helped push the campaign forward as now the USONW has only XXX percent left to raise.

QUOTE

The new USO Sea-Tac Center will provide greater access to shower facilities, beds, hot meals and snacks, computers and Internet access, a family room, theater room and much more.

The USO Northwest center at Sea-Tac has been open 24 hours a day, seven days a week since 1966, and has the highest volume of visitors of any USO airport center in the country. USONW volunteers work around the clock to provide travel assistance and all of the comforts of home to military patrons.

"Knowing there is a comfortable, welcoming place to call home while service members or their spouses travel, means a lot to them," said Don Leingang, USONW Executive Director. "It's a great privilege to work with individuals like those with the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound who recognize the sacrifices they make."

USO Northwest is funded entirely by private donations. Thanks to generous donations from the Boeing Employees Community Fund, The Norcliffe Foundation, and USONW's Board of Directors, half of the funds needed to complete construction of the new Sea-Tac center have been raised. USONW needs to raise the remaining funds in the next three months in order to meet a summer 2014 opening.

To make a one-time or recurring monetary or in-kind donation in support of USO and our military, please visit www.usonw.org or call USO Northwest Office Manager Shannon McManus at (206) 246-1908 extension 3.

About USO Northwest

The USO (United Service Organizations) lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide. USO Northwest serves more than 540,000 active-duty military and their families annually throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington State. We provide a touch of home through our centers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, our USONW Mobile Canteen RV, and innovative programs and services. We also provide critical support to those who need us most, including military deploying overseas and arriving home, military families, wounded warriors and their families, and the families of the fallen.

USO Northwest is a private, nonprofit organization, not a government agency. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers and donors. In addition to individual donors and corporate sponsors, USO Northwest is also supported through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-15348). To join us in this patriotic mission, and to learn more about USO Northwest, please visit usonw.org.

About Enduring Support Campaign

The USO Northwest facilities must be remodeled and expanded to sustain the level of USO service and programs for years to come. Each has been in use for an extended period of time with little or no renovation or refurbishment. With an increased usage of 400% since 2005, it is critical the centers be upgraded and maintained.

Through a partnership with the Port of Seattle, the Enduring Support Campaign will build out 7,000 square-feet of vacated space allowing for a larger USONW footprint to address increased service needs as well as greater visibility and access within Sea-Tac International Airport. Enhancements in the areas of food services, sleeping accommodations, shower facilities and separate family relaxation areas are high priorities. The current USONW Sea-Tac Center is under 3,500 square-feet and serves 10,000 military personnel a month.

For more information, visit www.usonw.org/campaign.

About Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound (ECF) is an unique employee-owned charitable giving program. Since 1951, generous Boeing employees have contributed $500,000,000 (half-a-billion dollars!) to local Puget Sound nonprofits. Because The Boeing Company pays all the overhead, 100% of every dollar contributed to the Employees Community Fund (ECF) is granted to local health & human service nonprofits. ECF grants enable agencies to purchase equipment, renovate their facilities and create new programs that directly help their clients and strengthen our communities. By pooling our resources, Boeing employees make a positive impact!

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Many of you may recall that in year's past, Walmart has been a significant contributor of the USO Puget Sound Area. As we were submitting our grant earlier this year, Walmart had already heard of our name change to USO Northwest in November 2012, and asked Shannon to submit a grant which would help all four centers, including Portland. I am happy to announce that in today's mail was a check for $100K to support SeaTac, JBLM, Portland and the Mobile Canteen.