

## **WAL-MART DONATION TO BENEFIT SOCO**

Special Olympics Colorado is the beneficiary of a \$50,000 grant from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. The grant is being awarded through Wal-Mart's State Giving program, where managers and associates from across the state evaluate applications and determine the gifts. Special Olympics is the first organization in Colorado to benefit from Wal-Mart's State Giving program.

"We are absolutely delighted to be the recipient of this substantial donation from Wal-Mart," said Mindy Watrous, President & CEO of Special Olympics Colorado. "Their generosity will allow us to continue providing uniforms, sports equipment, competitions and training to our 8,500-plus Special Olympics athletes. Together we will provide a venue for health and fitness through sports to a population, which is oftentimes left on the sideline."

Special Olympics Colorado estimates the cost of providing one year of training and competition at \$330 for each athlete who participates. The financial support provided by this grant will cover costs associated with uniforms, facility rentals, competitions, equipment, transportation and awards for an additional 500 athletes from across the state.

"Wal-Mart knows how important Special Olympics is to Colorado's athletes and their families across the state," said Josh Phair, Sr. Manager for Public Affairs in Colorado. "We are very proud to be involved with an organization so vital to local communities."

The check was presented Wednesday, Aug. 20 at a VIP Breakfast for the Local Economic Advancement Partnership, hosted by Wal-Mart. The breakfast, which included representatives from various area Chambers of Commerce and other key business leaders, was held in conjunction with Wal-Mart's Business-to-Business Seminar at the Crowne Plaza Denver International Airport Convention Center.

The program included an introduction of the State Giving program and the presentation of the check. Both Watrous and Erin Holloway, a SOCO Global Messenger, addressed the audience and then accepted the check on behalf of Special Olympics Colorado.