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The Arc of the United States Awards Sub-Grant to The Arc Kent County for Transitioning Youth from School to Adult Life Funded by the Walmart Foundation

May 6, 2010 Grand Rapids, MI City/State – The Arc of the United States (The Arc) awarded a Sub-Grant to The Arc Kent County as part of a previously announced \$3 million grant from the Walmart Foundation. The Arc Kent County is one of 45 local chapters of The Arc across the U.S. to be awarded a Sub-Grant as part of the Walmart Foundation School-to-Community Transition Project.

In June 2009, the Walmart Foundation awarded The Arc \$3 million to support its new initiative on behalf of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The project aims to increase transition outcomes and to build inclusion and involvement of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in independent living, employment, post-secondary education or vocational training, and community, social and civic affairs.

The Arc Kent County will launch the Community Participation Initiative (CPI). This initiative makes it possible for transitioning youth with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of community life, as they choose. The goal of the Community Participation Initiative is to create partnerships with community agencies that offer activities that are open to all citizens. The Community Participation Initiative will then provide to these agencies the assistance they need to welcome and include people with disabilities.

“This generous grant from the Walmart Foundation provides The Arc Kent County with an excellent opportunity to expand our current services for individuals looking for ways to connect with the broader community. We look forward to partnering with local organizations and business to explore ways for our constituents to establish meaningful community involvement,” said Dave Lehker, president of The Arc Kent County Board of Directors.

“The Walmart Foundation is committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities and ensuring they have opportunities to live better,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “Our recent grant to The Arc reinforces our commitment by supporting programs of The Arc across America.”

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, including donating 127 million pounds of nutritious food to U.S. food banks. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

About The Arc Kent County

The Arc Kent County advocates for the rights and full participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc Kent County is committed to building inclusive communities through advocacy, support and information. For more information, please visit www.arckent.org