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## **ARKANSAS 211 AWARDED GRANT TO EXPAND FOOD DELIVERY PROGRAM**

For Immediate Release  
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**Lowell, Ark.** – Arkansas 211 has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from Walmart Foundation to the Ride United: Last Mile Delivery program. Funding will improve healthy food access for low-income households in Washington and Benton counties.

Ride United: Last Mile Delivery is a partnership between Arkansas 211, United Way and DoorDash that supplies food boxes and other essential supplies through home deliveries at no cost to the recipient. “With our partnership with DoorDash, the transportation barrier to access healthy food is removed for community members,” said Dallas Mudd, executive director of Arkansas 211. “We could not be more thankful for the opportunity to partner with DoorDash and better serve people in need,” Mudd continued. Arkansas 211 is a statewide program headquartered at United Way of Northwest Arkansas.

“We’re proud to support United Way and Arkansas 211’s latest initiative to improve access to safer and healthier food for all,” said Angela Oxford, Senior Manager, Community Resiliency, NWA Region at the Walmart Foundation. “This program will help fill an important food access gap in Northwest Arkansas and leverage an innovative partnership with Door Dash to serve the most vulnerable in our community.”

Arkansas 211 piloted the program through June 2023, arranging for DoorDash drivers to deliver over 3,700 food boxes to food insecure families. Local nonprofits collaborating in the pilot included the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, St. James Missionary Baptist Church and CARE Community Center. Nonprofit collaborators work with Arkansas 211 to coordinate deliveries of clients needing delivery of food and essentials. Arkansas 211 would dispatch DoorDash delivery couriers to pick up items and then drop items at the client home at no cost to the client. The Walmart Foundation grant provides funding to expand the program to over 12,000 “last mile” home deliveries through 2024.

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**About Philanthropy at Walmart:** Walmart.org represents the philanthropic efforts of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation. By focusing where the business has unique strengths, Walmart.org works to tackle key social and environmental issues and collaborate with others to spark long-lasting systemic change. Walmart has stores in 20 countries, employs more than 2 million associates and does business with thousands of suppliers who, in turn, employ millions of people. Walmart.org is helping people live better by supporting programs to accelerate upward job mobility for frontline workers, advance equity, address hunger, build inclusive economic opportunity for people in supply chains, protect and restore nature, reduce waste and emissions, and build strong communities where Walmart operates. To learn more, visit [www.walmart.org](http://www.walmart.org) or connect on Twitter @Walmartorg.

**About Arkansas 211:** Arkansas 211 is a confidential, free 24-hour-a-day, multilingual way to connect callers to critical health and human services in their community. The services include food, shelter, rental assistance, childcare and more. Arkansas 211 helps callers navigate their situation and then matches them with the best and closest resources. Arkansas 211 is a statewide program headquartered at United Way of Northwest Arkansas. Learn more at [Arkansas211.org](http://Arkansas211.org).

**About DoorDash:** DoorDash (NYSE: DASH) is a technology company that connects consumers with their favorite local businesses in more than 25 countries across the globe. Founded in 2013, DoorDash builds products and services to help businesses innovate, grow, and reach more customers. DoorDash is building infrastructure for local commerce, enabling merchants to thrive in the convenience economy, giving consumers access to more of their communities, and providing work that empowers. With DoorDash, there is a neighborhood of good in every order.

**About United Way of Northwest Arkansas:** Founded in 1931, United Way of Northwest Arkansas improves the capacity of individuals and families by mobilizing the caring power and generosity of the community through collaboration with regional partnerships. Learn more at [unitedwaynwa.org](http://unitedwaynwa.org).

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