

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP OF BENTON COUNTY CORPORATE LUNCHEON

Bentonville, AR – May 1, 2014: Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County (SPSF/BC) will be celebrating 30 years of student successes with community partners at their annual Corporate Luncheon presented by ARVEST Bank. The Corporate Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at John Q. Hammons in Rogers, AR from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Bill Simon, President & CEO of Walmart Stores U.S. will be the Featured Speaker at the event. Guest Speakers include, SPSF/BC Student, Deana George and SPSF/BC Board Chair, Mary White Schneider of Keith, Butler, Miller, Schneider & Pawlik Law Firm.

SPSF/BC will be recognizing and appreciating over 100 community partners and have invited new corporate and community partners to join this year's event. Tickets are \$50 each and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact Andrea Milton at andrea@spsfbc.com for reservations or with questions. Tickets can also be purchased online by visiting www.spsfbc.com and clicking on "events".

As the largest affiliate in the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund network, SPSF/BC focuses on the whole student and the needs of his/her family. We provide an empowering and nurturing growth environment that helps a single parent attend school, while addressing issues which, if not addressed, could undermine academic success or cause early withdrawal. We do this through a variety of support programs, including: *Professional and Personal Counseling* that helps students process life events and increase their self-confidence and sense of worth; *Academic and Career Guidance* that assists students in identifying and efficiently pursuing an appropriate course of study leading to employment; *Life Skills Workshops* that allow students to adjust to the college environment and develop their critical thinking, communication, research and time management skills; *Tutoring* for students who need a little extra academic help along the way; *Mentoring* to help students build the confidence they need to change their lives. We also connect our students to members of the Alumni Council, who have walked the path before them and completed their degrees.

For more information on how to support the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Benton County and impact the lives of a single parent family visit www.spsfbc.com or contact us by email at spsfbc@spsfbc.com or by phone at 479/254-8550.

EVENT SPONSORS:

Presenting Sponsor: ARVEST Bank
Gold Sponsors: 3W Magazine, Bank of Arkansas
Bronze Sponsors: Northwest Arkansas Sales & Marketing, Regions Bank, TPN Retail
Media Partners: Celebrate Magazine

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Bill Simon

President and CEO, Walmart U.S.

William S. Simon is president and Chief Executive Officer of Walmart U.S. He is responsible for the strategic direction and performance of Walmart's U.S. business, leading 1.3 million associates and about 4,000 stores. Bill and his team are focused on executing Walmart's core business model – lowering costs in order to offer customers lower prices – and fulfilling the company's mission of saving people money so they can live better.

Walmart U.S. serves more than 140 million customers each week and had revenues of \$274.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2013.

From 2007 to 2010, Bill was the chief operating officer for Walmart U.S. where he worked to drive innovation and improvement throughout the business. He previously served as executive vice president of professional services and new business development, and he led the team that created and launched Walmart's \$4 prescription drug program.

Bill joined Walmart in March 2006 from Brinker International, where he was senior vice president of global business development and was responsible for the growth of the company's restaurant portfolio outside the United States.

Prior to Brinker, Bill served as secretary of the Florida Department of Management Services, appointed by then-Gov. Jeb Bush. Bill was responsible for the state's operations and administrative functions, including health care benefits, human resources, the Florida retirement system, facilities management and real estate.

Bill also was president of Diageo Southeast and president of North America Ready to Drink. He held senior sales and marketing roles with Cadbury-Schweppes, PepsiCo and RJR-Nabisco.

He serves on the boards of Darden Restaurants, the Foundation for Excellence in Education, Retail Industry Leaders Association and the National Retail Federation.

Bill served 25 years in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserves. He attended the University of Connecticut, where he earned a bachelor of arts in economics and an MBA in management.