

**TAVIS SMILEY PRESENTS**

**WAL★MART**

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## **Wal-Mart Partners with Tavis Smiley to Launch Exhibit to Celebrate the Impact of African Americans on America**

*Traveling museum exhibit will tour the United States over the next four years*

**BENTONVILLE, Ark., February 23, 2008** – Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is proud to announce that it will serve as the title sponsor of Tavis Smiley Presents “America I AM: The African American Imprint” traveling museum exhibition. This unique traveling exhibit will feature a collection of historically significant African American documents and artifacts, music, and cultural memorabilia that highlight every period of U.S. history. On an unprecedented level, this exhibition will provide visitors with a riveting, revealing and revelatory presentation of one of America’s greatest legacies – the wide-ranging impact African Americans have had on the nation and the world.

In addition, the one-of-a-kind “America I AM” experiential super truck, which will cross the United States stopping at places of historic significance and African-American museums until the exhibition opens in November, was previewed at the 2008 State of the Black Union, hosted by famed radio and television personalities Tavis Smiley and Tom Joyner, in New Orleans.

Through more than 150 extraordinary artifacts, fascinating photographs, captivating multimedia, and enthralling stories, “America, I AM: The African American Imprint” endeavors to present a big picture to visitors that would open their eyes to a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction and creativity, that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world.

“Black history is worth celebrating beyond February, and we’re excited about the potential of this exhibit to enlighten and empower Americans across the country. We appreciate the vision and support of Wal-Mart to help bring this historic project to life,” said Tavis Smiley.

The goal of the exhibition and its accompanying educational programs, pamphlets, lectures, film series, and other activities is to highlight the complicated, convoluted, but also inspiring history of how African Americans have had an indelible imprint on the life, history, and culture of the United States and the world.

“As our country continues its celebration of Black History Month, it’s important to remember that African American history is, in fact, America’s history,” said Lee Scott, president and chief executive officer, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. “We are excited to partner in such a powerful and educational experience that will share the legacy of so many important African American figures as the “American I AM” traveling exhibit makes history today.”

The experiential truck will begin its tour on July 4<sup>th</sup> from Los Angeles leading to the opening of the exhibition on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Over the next four years, the exhibit will make its journey across the country, stopping in 9 other major museums before reaching its final destination at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, The State of the Black Union examined the impact of African Americans on the nation as our country celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in North America. The “America I AM” museum tour is an extension of this discussion, and part of Smiley’s commitment to bring information and inspiration to communities nationwide. The Smiley Group, Inc. and Arts and Exhibitions International, a division of the Anschutz Entertainment Group, have worked together to develop the “America I AM” touring museum exhibit of the African American imprint on the United States and its culture.

Wal-Mart’s support is an extension of the company’s ongoing commitment to diversity. Wal-mart is a leading employer of minorities in the U.S. with more than 251,000 African American associates. More than 20 percent of all colleges and universities from which the company recruited in fiscal year 2008 were minority-serving institutions, including historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). In fact, 2,100 of Wal-Mart’s associates are HBCU graduates. The company is proud to recognize the living history of African-Americans throughout the year through company-wide initiatives, such as tributes to the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen. Wal-Mart’s commitment to diversity also extends beyond the four walls of the organization, and the company is proud to maintain community partnerships with organizations such as the National Urban League, Thurgood Marshall College Fund and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, among many others.

**About The Smiley Group, Inc.**

TSG is a communications corporation established in support of human rights and related empowerment issues. TSG serves as the holding company for various enterprises encompassing broadcast and print media, lectures, symposiums and the Internet including Tavis Smiley Presents.

**About Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT)**

Every week, millions of customers visit Wal-Mart Stores, Supercenters, Neighborhood Markets, and Sam’s Club locations across America or log on to its online store at [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com). The company and its Foundation are committed to a philosophy of giving back locally. Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) is proud to support the causes that are important to customers and associates right in their own neighborhoods, and last year gave more than \$270 million to local communities in the United States. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfacts.com](http://www.walmartfacts.com), [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com), or [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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