**Community Alliance for Global Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL ACTIVISTS CELEBRATE NATIONAL FOOD DAY BY PROTESTING A POSSIBLE NEW WAL-MART STORE IN SEATTLE’S CENTRAL DISTRICT**

Concerned Seattle residents will raise neighborhood awareness about Wal-Mart’s negative impact on workers, tax-payers, community members, farmers and eaters.

**Oct 24, 2012 – Seattle, WA** - To mark Food Day (October 24th)—a nationwide celebration and movement toward more healthy, affordable and sustainable food-- concerned residents will leaflet at Promenade 23, the shopping center at 23rd and Jackson in Seattle’s Central District. The action aims to raise awareness about a possible new Wal-Mart store being proposed for that location and the impacts it could have on local and sustainable food systems. Leafletters will carry out their action from 10am until 1pm.

The organizers of the action are members of the Community Alliance for Global Justice (CAGJ), a Seattle-based non-profit dedicated to strengthening local economies. CAGJ recently joined the Puget Sound Making Change at Wal-Mart Coalition because of their concern for how it will impact the food system.

“Wal-Mart drives consolidation in all industries, and the food system is no exception.” Says CAGJ Executive Director, Heather Day. “It is imperative that we find solutions to ensure everyone have access to healthy food. Wal-Mart is not the solution. Wal-Mart may claim they can solve food deserts in US inner cities, but we know better. Through its huge market power and drive for profits, Wal-Martsqueezes suppliers, negatively effecting every link in the food chain--farmers get unfair prices, farmworkers and Wal-Mart associates get unfair pay, and eaters get lower quality food.”

Concern about Wal-Mart’s entry into the Central District is sprung from Walmart’s new neighborhood market-style stores which many believe aggressively work to gain access to urban markets and undermine local businesses. “We know that Wal-Mart has targeted Seattle for its urban expansion, despite the fact that there are many grocery retailers already operating in this area, many of whom have higher wage and benefit standards than Wal-Mart.  Promenade 23 is one site that we are particularly concerned about, since it already has a union-represented, locally owned Red Apple store," explained Elena Perez, coordinator of the Making Change at Walmart, Puget Sound coalition.

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*Community Alliance for Global Justice educates and mobilizes with individuals and organizations to strengthen local economies everywhere. CAGJ is grassroots, community-based and committed to anti-oppressive organizing as we build solidarity across diverse movements. CAGJ seeks to transform unjust trade and agricultural policies and practices imposed by corporations, governments and other institutions while creating and supporting alternatives that embody social justice, sustainability, diversity and grassroots democracy.*