

State of Tennessee

David H. Lillard, Jr., State Treasurer

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Singer Jimmy Wayne to Accept Donation from State Treasury Employees

Last year, country music singer Jimmy Wayne walked 1,700 miles to raise awareness of homeless youths and teenagers who are “aging out” of the foster care system once they reach the age of 18. Today he will be walking up the steps of the Tennessee State Capitol to support the same cause.

Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. will present Wayne with a check for contributions made by Tennessee Treasury Department employees on behalf of “Project Meet Me Halfway.” The initiative is designed to raise awareness and support for children who are homeless or in foster care programs. The check presentation will take place today at 2:30 p.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chamber on the first floor of the State Capitol.

Wayne - whose top 10 country hits include “Do You Believe Me Now,” “Stay Gone” and “I Love You This Much” – spent most of his youth in a number of foster care facilities and was even homeless at one point. He credits the love and support of Russell and Beatrice Costner, the older couple who took in the teenager and gave him a home, love and stability, for turning his life in a positive direction.

On January 1, 2010, Wayne began a seven-month trek from Nashville, TN to Phoenix, AZ on foot. He completed the journey despite coping with a broken ankle for the last few days on the road. The trip generated significant media attention and support for “Project Meet Me Halfway.”

“I am very proud of our Treasury Department employees for supporting this worthy cause,” Treasurer Lillard said. “During these difficult economic times, it is hard for people to make charitable contributions. However, our employees recognized the need and gave what they could.”

“I am so touched by the support of the Treasury Department employees,” Wayne said. “The fact that they have opened their hearts to these kids and want to support them means the world to me. They are the perfect examples of what Project Meet Me Halfway is all about.”

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