



Famous chef puts spotlight on former Walton estate

By Diane Bell

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Wal-Mart heirs **John Walton**, and his wife, **Christy**, lived unassumingly for years in National City. After John died tragically in an experimental plane crash seven years ago, Christy quietly donated their 6.85-acre property and restored Princess Ann Victorian home to a foundation in 2006.

Today it is used by an environmental education group, Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, for hands-on gardening and cooking classes for local elementary students and families from underserved communities.

Now, prominent TV chef **Marcela Valladolid** has placed Olivewood Gardens in the national spotlight.

The local host of Food Network's "Mexican Made Easy" just presented the facility with \$50,000. It was her prize for attracting the most online votes in Lowe's home improvement chain's "Designer Challenge for Charity." Valladolid made the presentation Wednesday, which happened to be the seventh anniversary of Walton's death.

Although Christy wasn't on hand, she viewed a news clip and messaged: "This is all great stuff." Still on the property is the vegetable garden she created for their son, Lukas, which she credits with helping restore his health during his successful battle with childhood cancer.

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