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**To:** Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov  
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**Subject:** A Message from Mars – Mars, Incorporated December 2018 Newsletter

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*Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam (R) poses with M&'S® Characters Red and Yellow before the groundbreaking ceremony.*

On December 11, 2018 Mars Wrigley Confectionery celebrated 40 years of operation in Cleveland, Tennessee with a groundbreaking on a new investment and expansion at the factory. The facility opened in 1978 and is one of the largest manufacturing facilities within the Mars network, producing M&'S® candies and TWIX® bars, and employs over 800 Associates.

The groundbreaking ceremony follows an announcement in October of a new \$142M investment creating 75 new jobs which will allow Mars to upgrade the factory and add new manufacturing capacity, including the launch of M&'S® Hazelnut Spread candies. Cleveland Site Director Mack Phillips delivered remarks about Mars' commitment to the community and the pride of being part of Cleveland for 40 years. "The investment we're making here will lead us into the next 40 years," said Phillips.

Governor  
Haslam  
,  
Commissioner  
Rolfe  
,  
and  
Mayor  
Brooks  
gave  
remarks  
highlighting  
Mars'  
40

-year commitment to the local community and its enduring partnerships with state and local economic development agencies. "Tennessee has built a historic partnership with Mars over the past 40 years," said Governor Haslam. "It's an honor to have such an iconic brand continue its commitment to our state by investing, creating additional jobs, and now launching a new product that will be made in Cleveland."

*Mars Food representatives with BEN'S BEGINNERS™ Cooking Contest Winners Robin and Kali Yazel from South Bend, Indiana during their surprise hometown celebration.*

UNCLE BEN'S® brand wrapped up its annual BEN'S BEGINNERS™ Cooking Contest for the seventh consecutive year by surprising five grand prize winners with hometown celebrations. This year's winners were selected among hundreds of participants from kindergarten through eighth grade who submitted photos of themselves and their families cooking together and showcasing a finished rice-based dish using UNCLE BEN'S® rice. Throughout the first two weeks of December, the UNCLE BEN'S® brand teamed up with schools and local communities to surprise each of the winners with a \$15,000 cash prize and \$30,000 school cafeteria makeover.

Since its launch in 2012, the BEN'S BEGINNERS™ contest has driven a nationwide movement to get more kids cooking, a skill as important as reading and writing. The contest has motivated thousands of families to cook together and has awarded more than \$1,000,000 to families and schools across the country to help create healthier communities.

Congratulations to the five grand prize winners:

- Amv and Sam Thvna from Austin, Texas

The

The  
Orange  
County  
Convention  
Center  
in  
Orlando  
,  
Florida  
hosted  
the

American Kennel Club (AKC) National Championship Dog Show Presented by Royal Canin on December 15-16. The event is the largest dog show in North America where thousands of dogs from across the globe competed for the Best in Show honor and the highest cash prize offered at any AKC dog show. Other competitions included the AKC Agility Invitational, the AKC Obedience Classic, the National Owner-Handled Series finals, and Juniors competition in Conformation, Agility, Obedience and Rally®.

Celebrity dog lovers showed their support by posting a photo of their dog to social media, tagging Royal Canin and using #TeamDog to show which team they hoped would take top honors at the show this year. They also encouraged their followers to do the same for a chance to have their dog's photo featured in this year's broadcast. The celebrity #TeamDog line-up included EXTRA Host Mario Lopez representing #TeamFrenchie, actress McKenzie Westmore representing #TeamGreyhound, music artist Brett Young representing #TeamChihuahua, Olympic Gold Medalist Shawn Johnson representing #TeamGolden, Hallmark Channel Host Cameron Mathison representing #TeamDoberman, actor Kellan Lutz representing #TeamAussie, and pro football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen representing #TeamWheaten.

The AKC National Championship Dog Show Presented by Royal Canin will be broadcast on Animal Planet on New Year's Day at 6 p.m. ET/PT, and the Best in Show will appear on Good Morning America on January 2, 2019.

The Mars Wrigley Confectionery factory in Waco, TX was featured in local news station KENS5's "Made in San Antonio" segment, which features brands made locally in San Antonio and other cities in Texas. The segment highlights the factory's operation since 1976 producing STARBURST®, SNICKERS®, and SKITTLES®. The factory produces over 65 percent of all the SNICKERS® for North America, 80 percent of all the SKITTLES®, and 100 percent of all the STARBURST® in North America. Dan Braswell, Waco plant director, indicated residents of Waco can smell the chocolate from the factory. "We run into people in the community and they talk about we smelled your plant this morning," said Braswell. He also noted Waco residents make similar comments such as "smelt the chocolate you were making or smelt the fruit flavor from the rainbow SKITTLES®."

To view the segment, click here.

Unsubscribe

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