

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McDONALD'S INTRODUCES ITS NEW FRUIT 'N WALNUT SALAD:**

***Sampling Event to Take Place at St. Louis & Metro East McDonald's Restaurants***

**St. Louis, December 21, 2004** – Just in time for New Year's resolutions, McDonald's is introducing a new Fruit 'n Walnut Salad. As the first quick service restaurant to offer a fresh fruit entrée to its customers, McDonald's continues to expand its menu to include choices for a more balanced lifestyle.

Nationally, the Fruit 'n Walnut Salad will launch in the spring, but local McDonald's Restaurants are offering this new menu item at the first of the year. Customers will have the chance to sample the Fruit 'n Walnut Salad at all St. Louis and Metro East McDonald's Restaurants on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We are always searching for new and better ways to offer more choices for a balanced lifestyle," said Mike Klak, McDonald's Co-op President. The Fruit 'n Walnut Salad will add to McDonald's current premium salad menu of the California Cobb, Bacon Ranch Salad and the Caesar Salad. "The Fruit 'n Walnut Salad is not your traditional lettuce-based salad," added Klak, "it's a combination of fresh fruit and walnuts that customers can enjoy any time of the day."

The Fruit 'n Walnut Salad is a refreshing bounty of crisp sliced apples, plump red grapes and sweet frosted walnuts. It is topped with a creamy low-fat yogurt, and it will be served all day, every day.

McDonald's is the leading global foodservice retailer, with 153 restaurants in the St. Louis and Metro East Area. Approximately 80 percent of all McDonald's restaurants worldwide are owned and operated by local, independent businessmen and women. McDonald's 30,000 restaurants globally serve nearly 46 million people each day.

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