



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEALTH PLANS FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS TO HELP SCHOOLS GET HEALTHIER**

*Total of \$13,260 awarded to 12 elementary schools to  
support programs encouraging physical activity and reduce obesity*

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.** – The Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation awarded a total of \$13,260 in “healthy schools” grants to 12 elementary schools around the state to support programs that promote more physical activity in the school day to help reduce obesity and increase learning.

Rocky Mountain Health Plans employees raised money throughout the year. Schools were asked to consider innovative approaches prompting students to move more each day. The Foundation received 68 applications. Employees selected the schools where the need was the greatest.

“We were in awe of the creative approach the schools took,” said Lisa Fenton Free, Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation. “It is very rewarding to be able to help them make a positive impact on their community.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years. Programs like Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move!” are encouraging schools to help children eat healthier and get more exercise. Rocky employees agreed that this was an important need.

Winning schools included:

- Centennial Elementary, Evans: \$500 for step counters
- Valdez Elementary, Denver: \$1,000 for a climbing wall
- Olathe Middle/High School: \$1,500 for Fit for Life program
- John H. Amesse Elementary, Denver: \$500 for jump ropes
- Ponderosa Elementary, Aurora: \$1,500 for step counters
- Lake International School, Denver: \$865 for step counters

- Maplewood Elementary, Greeley: \$250 for game set
- Garden Place Academy, Denver: \$2,230 for bicycles
- Billie Martinez Elementary, Greeley: \$1,420 for aerobic equipment
- Gust Elementary, Denver: \$1,500 for GeoMotion fitness program
- Newton Elementary, Denver: \$1,995 for swim lessons
- Denver Academy: ??? for step counters

### **About Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation**

Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation was formed in 1997 by Rocky Mountain Health Plans to expand the health plan's mission by bringing quality care to Coloradans outside its membership. When a health care need or gap is identified, the Foundation brings together the partners who can get things done and locates the financing through grant opportunities. For more information visit:

[www.rmhp.org/about\\_rmhp/rocky\\_mountain\\_health\\_foundation.aspx](http://www.rmhp.org/about_rmhp/rocky_mountain_health_foundation.aspx).

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