



dedicated to finding a cure

News Release

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John Hopkins of Rocky Mountain Health Plans Named 2005 Honoree of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Dream Gala

Grand Junction, CO (May 10, 2005) – John Hopkins, president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Health Plans, has been named 2005 Honoree of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's *Journey to a Cure* Dream Gala to be held at the Denver Marriott City Center on May 21.

According to the JDRF Rocky Mountain Chapter, Hopkins was selected as this year's honoree because of his 28 years of dedication and commitment to the people of Colorado and his company's progressive philosophy and treatment of its members living with diabetes.

Hopkins, who also has a personal connection to type I diabetes, said, "Type I diabetes can have an effect on everyone it touches and be life altering for the patient and their family. JDRF's steadfast commitment to funding research will lead us to a cure."

More than 600 people are expected to attend JDRF's sixth annual fund raising gala. Last year, more than \$450,000 was raised. This year's goal of \$600,000 will be used for local research toward finding a cure for type 1 diabetes, which affects more than 1.5 million Americans. Each year more than 13,000 children are diagnosed with diabetes in the U.S. Diabetes is the 4th leading killer of Americans.

The JDRF annual gala features live and silent auctions – more than \$100,000 worth of goods, services, and vacation packages – plus entertainment from Nina Story, lead vocalist for the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Rocky Mountain Health Plans will support the evening's fundraising efforts by serving as a presenting sponsor with their donation of \$25,000 as well as providing a lead gift of \$100,000 in the Fund-A-Cure portion of the live auction. One hundred percent of the funds raised at the auction will stay in Colorado for research.

Annually, more than \$1.5 million raised locally is directed to support clinical care and research at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Hopkins became president and CEO of RMHP in 2001. He has served as the president of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, a national organization of managed care pharmacists, and as president of the Colorado Association of Health Plans. He holds dual bachelor degrees in pharmacy and psychology from the University of Wyoming.

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About the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

JDRF, the leading charitable funder and advocate of juvenile (type 1) diabetes research worldwide, was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with juvenile diabetes – a disease which strikes children suddenly, makes the child insulin-dependent for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since inception, JDRF has provided more than \$800 million in direct funding to diabetes research. More than 80 percent of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education. JDRF is consistently ranked as a top charity by Forbes, BusinessWeek, SmartMoney, Charity Navigator and The American Institute of Philanthropy. JDRF's mission is constant: to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. For more information, visit the JDRF web site at jdrf.org/rockymountain or call 800-533-CURE.

About Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) provides medical benefit plans and services to more than 121,000 members statewide. The organization offers a wide range of medical benefit options, including PPO, HMO, shared-funding, and self-funded medical plans. RMHP serves a broad cross-section of Coloradans, including commercial groups, individuals, Medicare and Medicaid eligible persons, and children who receive care under the state's Child Health Plan Plus program.

*In the 2004 Health Matters Quality Report, produced by the Colorado Business Group on Health, Rocky Mountain Health Plans received **Significantly Higher than Average** scores for helpful customer service and for trouble-free access to specialty care.*

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