



## NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 2011

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### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEALTH PLANS FOUNDATION TO DONATE \$1,000 TO MESA COUNTY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 51**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.** – Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation is helping Mesa County Valley School District 51 encourage schools to expand the School Breakfast Program with a \$1,000 donation.

Local elementary schools were encouraged to get the word out to their students and increase the number of students eating breakfast, especially those students who qualify for Free Lunch, and are likely not eating at home. The top three schools that increased their participation level the quickest and the school with the highest overall participation in District 51 will receive a check to use how they wish.

**Chipeta Elementary has the highest overall breakfast program participation and will be presented a check for \$400 on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 1 p.m. Media can arrive at 12:45 p.m. to take pictures or video of fifth grade students in the cafeteria during their lunch hour.**

Nisley Elementary will receive \$300, the Dual Immersion Academy \$200, and \$100 will be donated to Clifton Elementary.

“Breakfast truly is the most important meal of the day, but an increasing number of children in District 51 have to go without,” Lisa Fenton-Free, Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation director, said. “District 51 does more than educate our kids; they provide additional resources to support the whole child. By ensuring they have a healthy breakfast, students are performing better in the classroom – we are proud to help them in these efforts.”

Colorado has the fastest growing rate of childhood poverty in the nation. In School District 51 alone, nearly 7,000 kids qualify for free or reduced lunches.

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Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation donation to District 51 schools' breakfast programs

District 51 has partnered with Hunger Free Colorado, ([www.hungerfreecolorado.org](http://www.hungerfreecolorado.org)) to expand the School Breakfast Program. The School Breakfast Program is designed so that all children start the day with a healthy breakfast so they can be alert and engaged.

### **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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