



News Release

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Agnes Risley Students To Be Given The Gift of Health By Local Non-Profit

(Sparks, NV) – School Jump-A-Thon’s....They are a part of every student’s school experience but the process of getting to the event is easier for some school’s than others. Agnes Risley Elementary School in Sparks is one of the lowest income schools within Washoe County School District and their annual Jump-A-Thon came close to not being the fun event that it should be for EVERY child.

At many schools, events such as Jump-A-Thons are funded through the Parent Teacher Association’s (PTA’s) or fundraisers but at Agnes Risley, this is not an option. With 84% of their children being on the free or reduced lunch program, there is not extra money in their local community to support such an event.

Knowing this, Agnes Risley’s school Counselor Ann Marlow contacted the Obesity Prevention Foundation, a local non-profit that is committed to improving the health and fighting obesity for children in our community. Without support, Miss Marlow explained, the school would not have enough jump ropes for every child to participate and they would be using plain rope, not true jump ropes. The Obesity Prevention Foundation decided to jump to action and make this a memorable event for all of the kids at Agnes Risley.

On Friday, April 25th, EVERY child at Agnes Risley will have a brand new jump rope for their school Jump-A-Thon and will then go home with the jump rope, thanks to

fundraising efforts by the Obesity Prevention Foundation. Starting at 2:00, Agnes Risley students will begin their Jump-A-Thon with their brand new ropes!

Local community members and organizations such as Saint Mary's Foundation and Batman Athletics donated to the Foundation to provide the funds to purchase 660 jump ropes for the children (enough for all of the children plus 100 to stay at the school) plus 48 double dutch ropes to stay at the school. Additionally, Arrow Electronics employees have been doing their own fundraising efforts for Agnes Risley and will be presenting the school with playground balls, jump ropes, Frisbees and other playground equipment.

The Obesity Prevention Foundation was established by the surgeons of Western Bariatric Institute to help fight the epidemic of obesity in children.

“This is a great opportunity to help local children understand the importance of exercise and we are excited to be able to provide the students of Agnes Risley Elementary School with a tool to be healthy,” stated Foundation Board Member Dr. Robert Watson. “We are grateful to our local community for their contributions to make this event a success as well. The health and wellbeing of our local children is of great importance and we all need to have a vested interest in making a difference locally.”

The presentation of the jump ropes from the Obesity Prevention Foundation and playground equipment by Arrow Electronics will happen at 2:00pm at Agnes Risley Elementary School in Sparks.