



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ken Dey
(208) 381-2894 (office)
(208) 631-5322 (cell)
Deyke@slrhc.org

Kohl's and St. Luke's Children's Hospital Team up to Improve the Health of Treasure Valley Children

Boise – St. Luke's Children's Hospital and Kohl's Department Stores are partnering to help raise the awareness of children's health issues in the Treasure Valley by hosting a summer children's health fair in Meridian on Saturday, May 30.

The free health fair will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Meridian Kohl's store, 3275 N. Eagle Rd. The theme of the fair is "Be Healthy from the Outside In."

Today's children are facing a variety of health-related risks including obesity and challenges from diseases and viruses.

Obesity rates in children have soared in the last three decades. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show the percentage of obese children has in some cases tripled between 1976 and 2006. The highest increase was in children ages 12 to 19. The number of obese children in that age group jumped from 5 percent to nearly 18 percent.

Obesity has been tied to poor eating habits and a lack of physical activity.

At the health fair parents and children will be able to participate in a number of health and safety stations including:

- **Helmet and bike safety.** Children and parents will learn how to properly fit a helmet and be made aware of the latest in bicycle safety tips.
- **Hand washing.** To eliminate germs it's critical that children learn how to correctly wash their hands. A special "Germ Juice" demo will show kids if they're doing a good job washing their hands.
- **Healthy heart.** Learn how to "Get up, Get Movin" to improve your overall health and to keep a strong heart.

A highlight of the fair will be the opportunity to tour through a 20-foot inflatable digestive system that gives an up-close look at why good nutrition is so important.

St. Luke's Children's Hospital was able to purchase the interactive exhibit thanks to a \$35,000 grant Kohl's awarded St. Luke's in 2008 as part of the Kohl's Cares for Kids program.

-end-

About Kohl's

Based in Menomonee Falls, Wis., Kohl's is a family focused, value oriented Specialty department store. Kohl's operates 957 stores in 47 states. Kohl's supports children's health and education programs throughout the United States with the Kohl's Cares for Kids program. Funding for the program comes from the sales of special merchandise at Kohl's stores. Through 2007, Kohl's has raised more than \$102 million for children's health and education programs. For more information visit www.kohls.com.

About St. Luke's Children's Hospital

St. Luke's Children's Hospital, the only children's hospital in Idaho, treats more than 50,000 children every year, including 28,000 who visit its Pediatric Emergency Department. St. Luke's Children's Hospital provides expert care to critically and chronically ill infants and children. These patients are routinely referred to St. Luke's Children's Hospital from a multistate region for a variety of services including heart surgery, cancer treatment, orthopedics, neurological disorders, newborn intensive care, and rare infectious diseases. For more information visit www.stlukesonline.com.

Editors Note: Media is welcome to cover the event.