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Kids Kampus Rodeo

Alana Adams

Thursday was just the groundbreaking at the Washoe County Kids Campus for a new one million dollar recreation center.

But, thanks to the Reno Rodeo Foundation, the children got a glimpse of what's to come and a chance to take a rodeo ride for themselves.

The children age one month to 18 have many labels attached to them by the time they make it to the campus.

Troubled homes or troubled pasts lead them to this temporary housing facility while others try to sort out the details to get them home.

Since most of the youth stay anywhere from one day to 30, John Solari, with the Reno Rodeo Foundation, wanted to make sure they weren't left out of the day's celebration.

"Big, big smiles. Even adults big smiles, unless they're a little scared."

It's the smiles everyone wants to see on the campus, that's why so many gathered to celebrate the new addition for the facility.

Mike Capello, with the Washoe County Social Services says employees at the Kids Kampus immediately noticed a need during last winter's snow storm when the children were stuck inside and very bored.

"We had probably about 60 kids on campus. The playgrounds were all snowed in, this quad area all snowed in. So, they were pretty much limited to activities we could limit in the residence."

Out of that need, Solari says the Reno Rodeo Foundation worked with the county to lay the work towards a million dollar recreation center to be located right in the middle of the campus.

"The kids here, right now, do not have any facility whatsoever and this is going to



give them a gymnasium. They can recreate, they can play basketball, they can study, they can hang out. So, it's going to be pretty cool for them." The new rec center is expected to be completed in 2007, but for these children the fun started today.

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