



## Reno Rodeo officials pitch in to help abused, at-risk kids

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Washoe County and Reno Rodeo officials started work Thursday on a \$1.2 million project to provide a recreation facility for the abused and at-risk children at the Washoe County Family Campus.

"These are the kinds of projects that we in public service dream of but can't ever imagine having the resources and the ability to execute," County Manager Katy Singlaub said. "Because of this partnership, we're able to execute."

The Reno Rodeo, through its charitable arm, the Reno Rodeo Foundation, has pledged to provide the bulk of the \$1.2 million needed for the building, which will include a gymnasium, classroom space and study space for the children on campus.

The Family Campus includes the Kids Kottage, an emergency shelter for children; the McGee Center, a residential care facility for at-risk children; and the Children's Cabinet, which provides services to families in need.

"The kids that are making their home here deserve the best life that we can give them," said John Solari, president of the Reno Rodeo Foundation. "This building will be warm, this building will be dry, this building will be comfortable and this building will be just for them."

Reno developer Perry DiLoreto, a rodeo foundation board member and producer of the Reno Rodeo Invitational Team Roping, is spearheading the project.

This is the second such building project for DiLoreto and the Foundation. In 2002, they funded a \$175,000, 6,000-square-foot indoor riding arena for the therapeutic horseback riding program at Marvin Picollo School.

"These children, they belong to us, they belong to Washoe County," DiLoreto said at Thursday's groundbreaking. "We need to take care of them."

Washoe County probation officer Mike Martino said the new facility will be a great addition to the Family Campus.

"What a wonderful gift," he said. "Everyone benefits from this. This was something that seemed like it was unattainable. To see it come true, it's just great."

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