



For immediate release

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***\$1,200 raised to fight childhood poverty locally
Touchmark partnership helps Eagles Elementary students close
the school year by making big impact***

FARGO, N.D. – Efforts to keep children in the Red River Valley from going hungry will be supported with a \$1,200 donation to the Great Plains Food Bank Backpack Program made by Eagles Elementary classrooms and Touchmark at Harwood Groves. The Fargo Public Schools' Adopt-A-School program has created a powerful partnership between the students and senior residents that has taught both generations valuable life lessons and developed enduring friendships. Now, just as summer vacation arrives this week, they're taking with them the lesson and impact of giving back.

To honor Red Nose Day, a national fundraiser to fight childhood poverty, Touchmark and Eagles teamed up to compete in a penny wars fundraiser. The combined total raised was \$1,200.

Mrs. Wacha's 3rd graders collected the most donations — \$480.97, which was more than half of the school total of \$946.11. Residents of Touchmark raised the remaining amount. The students won a special party with Touchmark residents, and all students were given red noses, purchased from Walgreen's to directly benefit Red Nose Day fundraising goals (*photo attached*).

Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation presented Touchmark with a plaque recognizing the retirement community's residents and staff for "outstanding volunteerism" throughout the 2016-2017 school year (*photo attached*).

"This fundraiser and partnership have exceeded our expectations! Both the Touchmark residents and Eagles students have had so much fun getting to know one another and working together for this important cause," Kari Dick, Executive Director at Touchmark, said. "It really shows how powerful two different generations can be when come together for a common cause."

Eagles Elementary is a K - 5 school in the Fargo Public School District that serves 318 students. Touchmark is the Eagles Elementary Adopt-A-School community partner.

About Red Nose Day

Organized by Comic Relief Inc., a non-profit dedicated to ending childhood poverty, Red
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Nose Day is on a mission to ensure children in need are safe, healthy and educated. Money raised through Red Nose Day in the U.S. has helped children and young adults in all 50 states and in 25 countries internationally. <https://rednoseday.org/donate-splash>

About Touchmark

A full-service retirement community, Touchmark at Harwood Groves offers people 55-plus years a full life. There is a wide range of homes and lifestyle options as well as an on-site health and fitness club, which is open to anyone over 50. For more information, visit Touchmark.com.

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