

# Media Advisory



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## DYS \$10,000 Grant To Provide Diabetes Care Training in Local Schools

### **Rite Aid Foundation Funds Local School Support Grant For 2009-2010 Year**

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 31, 2009 – As children return to school this fall, their parents are busy arranging for supplies and lunches, while their teachers ready classrooms and educational materials. But for parents and teachers of children with type 1 diabetes, the beginning of the school year also includes making sure that blood testing and insulin injections continue every day.

With the reduction of services and staff that many schools are facing this fall, responsibility for overseeing diabetes care within the classroom is more often falling to teachers, many of whom are unprepared for these duties. But in Toledo, Diabetes Youth Services (DYS) provides this necessary training to school staff, thanks this school year to a \$10,000 grant from the Rite Aid Foundation.

Most students with diabetes are now on regimens that require supervision throughout the school day for testing blood sugars, interpreting the results, discerning how much to eat and how much insulin to take throughout the school day. This requires a much higher level of knowledge about diabetes and responsibility for school personnel.

“With a continual shortage in school nurses, this training program becomes even more vital in ensuring the safety and care of children with diabetes,” Susan Harms, DYS executive director, said. “Staff at school will feel much more comfortable meeting the needs of a child with diabetes if they know how to support that child. We thank Rite Aid for helping us to continue to bring this training to school staff.”

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DYS Medical Program Director Robin Condon visits schools upon the request of the school or the family to provide training for school staff. The training assists educators in developing a written diabetes management plan for school hours, with a formal evaluation and follow-up as an essential component of the service. It also helps to facilitate communication and cooperation among school personnel, student and his or her family and the medical team. There is never a charge to the school for this service. For information about the program, or for schools wishing to request a DYS visit, contact Condon at 419.887.8739.

Diabetes Youth Services is a local, independent non-profit organization that provides educational and supportive services for youth with diabetes, their families, their schools, and communities throughout NW Ohio and SE Michigan. Services are sustained through individual, foundation, and corporate charitable contributions. All programs are staffed by certified diabetes educators. For more information about DYS, visit our website at [www.dys4kids.org](http://www.dys4kids.org) or call 419-887-8739.

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