

Winter 2009

Dear NSET members,

My name is Carrie Zabel and I am a teacher for the Washoe County School District. I am writing this letter to thank you for your recent contribution to one of my students, Jesse Eligio. Three years ago, Jesse came to my class as a first grade student. However, he did not come alone. He was joined by a number of nurses and aides to help with him with his fragile condition.

The year before, he was struck by a car while running out in the street chasing after a dog. The accident left him quadriplegic. Since the accident, his family has struggled with overwhelming doctor bills and the realization that their son would never move again from the neck down. I felt that there had to be something that our community could do to help this family out. I prompted them to fill out an application for a Habitat for Humanity home, and they qualified. So, I organized a run called "Welcome Home Jesse" to help financially support the Habitat for Humanity home, which would need many renovations to make it wheelchair accessible and comfortable for Jesse.

I was encouraged to apply for your grant after one of your members saw our story in the Reno Gazette Journal. I am so thankful for that encouragement, because recently your organization gifted the Eligio family with \$1000 to help them with their struggling situation. I want to thank you for your support. It means more to me, and the Eligio Family, than you could ever know! You are an amazing group of people and I salute you!

Sincerely,

Carrie Zabel