

**For Immediate Release**

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**More than 9,000 books donated to help children and families in need**

**Colorado Springs, CO, May 3, 2018** – We would like to thank generous community members, local businesses, PPUW partner agencies, nonprofits, churches and local media who contributed to the success of this year’s book drive! Thanks to your efforts, we collected 9,103 books for children and families in need! This is a huge increase from the 2017 April book drive, when 1,397 books were collected. Click [here](#) to see some of the photos.

Pikes Peak United Way and EPIC (Executives Partnering to Invest in Children) partner each year to collect books for children ages birth to age eight. Since 2013, EPIC has distributed nearly 500,000 books to children and families in Colorado. Volunteers spent the past couple of days sorting thousands of books. All donated books are given to children and families in need through local elementary schools, nonprofits, libraries, doctor’s offices and child care centers. Children’s books, when paired with positive adult-child interactions, provide a critical foundation for healthy early childhood development.

Local organizations who participated: Pikes Peak United Way, American Furniture Warehouse, Barnes & Noble (Briargate location), Colorado Springs Utilities, Deluxe, Vectra Bank, Colorado Springs Conservatory, Diakonia, USAA, Hope Montessori Academy, Community Banks of Colorado, Microchip, Mile High Youth Corps, Rampart Supply, Westside Community Center, Gold Camp Elementary, Pepsi, Martin Marietta, Donna’s Dolphins swim school, Peak Gymnastic & Fitness, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day, Cross Creek Church, Temple Shalom, King Solomon Baptist Church, Pulpit Rock Church, St. Francis of Assisi Church and Friendship Assembly.

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**About Pikes Peak United Way**

Pikes Peak United Way works to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key quality of life building blocks - education, income and health. Pikes Peak United Way creates long-lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes that prevent progress in these areas. For more information about Pikes Peak United Way, please visit [ppunitedway.org](http://ppunitedway.org).

Colorado *Business Reads* is a signature initiative of EPIC (Executives Partnering to Invest in Children). A membership-based organization of top executives, EPIC promotes early childhood care, education, health and parenting as the highest priority for public and private investment in Colorado.